

Labour suspends 147 rebel members

First MPs face expulsion in Militant purge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO MPs were last night facing expulsion from the Labour party after the leadership widened its Militant purge and suspended 147 party members who supported a rebel candidate in the Walton by-election.

Dave Nellist and Terry Fields are to be summoned before Labour's ruling national executive, which yesterday decided that there was *prima facie* evidence of their involvement in Militant.

Unless they can satisfy the executive at its September meeting that they are not and have not been supporters of the Trotskyist sect, they will be suspended from the party, dropped as official candidates and eventually expelled.

The move against the MPs, long demanded by Labour moderates, came as the leadership suspended 147 party members over the rebel Walton campaign last month. Eighty-five had been added to the list of 62 broad left supporters identified ten days ago. More could follow.

Suggestions that Mr Nellist,

MP for Coventry South East, and Mr Fields, member for Liverpool Broadgreen, might be spared if they renounced their links with Militant were being heavily played down by senior NEC sources. "The evidence relates to what they have done over a long period, not what they might say when their backs are up against the wall," one said.

The executive's decision was reached by an overwhelming majority, but was bitterly resisted by the far left. Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, compared the purge with McCarthyism and said: "It's a very shabby affair."

He pointed out that the two men, who both entered Parliament in 1983, had been re-elected by their constituencies and had been endorsed by the NEC last year.

Militant predicted a "ferocious" campaign of resistance by the left in general. Party leaders, however, said that Militant's decision to come out into the open in Walton had changed everything. "It has always been difficult to prove membership of an organisation that denies its existence," Larry Whitty, Labour's general secretary, said. Walton had exposed it as a separate organisation.

Labour has waged an unceasing battle against Militant throughout Neil Kinnock's leadership. In 1985, it expelled five members of the newspaper's editorial board, including the editor, Peter Taffie, and the founding father, Ted Grant. The following year, it purged the Liverpool party after Militant had effectively gained control of the city council. Nine leading supporters, including Derek Hutton, the council's deputy leader, and Tony Mulhearn were thrown out.

Then it set up a disciplinary committee to carry out expulsions away from the limelight of the NEC. Well over 100 Militants across the country were quietly expelled and in May 25 councillors who backed rebel candidates in the local election were ejected. The post-Walton purge, how-

ever, goes well beyond anything seen before, and dropping the two MPs would be seen as the culmination of Mr Kinnock's campaign against the organisation.

The national executive that met yesterday was given a dossier relating to Mr Fields's activities and a report by the organisation director, Joyce Gould, recommending action against him. The report also highlighted actions by Mr Nellist and as the debate began John Evans, the St Helens North MP who is one of Militant's leading pursuers, proposed similar action against him.

Mr Fields will be called to the NEC shortly after his release from Walton prison in Liverpool, where he is serving a 60-day sentence for refusing to pay his poll tax. Yesterday, he was visited by the Labour MPs Ron Brown, Jeremy Corbyn, Bernie Grant and Ken Livingstone, who took with them a tape recorder, apparently defying Home Office regulations. In a message broadcast by ITN, Mr Fields said: "If things don't improve, if the witchhunts don't stop, if we don't get a sense of direction and the right of dissent within the party, it is absolutely abhorrent."

Mr Nellist said last night: "It does not bode well for civil liberties under a future Labour government if they decide that

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Something old, something new: Yves Saint Laurent admiring his latest wedding dress creation at the end of his Paris show yesterday. A wedding dress, worn with his good-luck diamond and ruby heart pin, is the traditional finale to every haute couture

show in Paris. For Saint Laurent it was a tradition established with the launch of his own house in 1962. Yesterday it brought him a standing ovation for a collection that was not simply resumé but a celebration of all his classic designs.

Treaty gives Gorbachev strength to tackle critics

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev claimed yesterday to have reached agreement with all the main republics on the shape of a new Soviet federation, greatly strengthening his hand as he faces his conservative critics at today's meeting of the Communist party's central committee.

After a 12-hour negotiation with representatives of ten republics that ended at 1.30am yesterday, the Soviet leader announced: "Work on the union treaty has been completed." Mr Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation, admitted that some details of their agreement on federal taxation had still to be worked out, but both leaders are determined to clear up any outstanding problems.

The Soviet president, in a significant change of emphasis, said that he was prepared to offer those republics which did not join some alternative form of co-operation with the union. Five republics - the Baltic states, Georgia and Moldova - have pledged not to sign the treaty. Armenia, whose president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, was a surprise participant in the latest round of talks, says it will follow the results of September's referendum, widely expected to opt for secession.

In a fresh break with hardliners prepared to keep the Soviet Union together by force, Mr Gorbachev set out a new position envisaging something like a "two-speed" association of states. "I am

convinced that the peoples of all 15 republics have a profound wish to continue co-operation," he said. "In some cases this will take place in the framework of the union, while in other cases relations of various (other) kinds will be indicated."

This marked a shift away from the cabinet's emphasis on punishing secessionist republics by charging them world prices for commodities, and towards Grigori Yavlinsky's idea of one economic space embracing both break-away and "loyal" republics.

At today's plenum, Mr Gorbachev seems certain to be attacked for breaking up the union by yielding too much power to the republics, and also for conceding too much

to the West at last week's meetings with the Group of Seven leaders in London.

He will also be challenged to denounce the recent move by Mr Yeltsin to abolish Communist party cells in Russian workplaces, and to face tough questioning over a draft party programme which would virtually ditch Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Regional party bosses urged Mr Gorbachev to overrule Mr Yeltsin's decree. Separately, the parliamentary chairman, Anatoli Lukyanov, referred it to the constitutional review commission, to investigate whether it violated the constitution.

Communist play, page 8
Mary Dejevsky, page 14

British Coal has first profits for 13 years

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal revealed its first profit for 13 years yesterday, though the company was quick to point out the relatively modest scale of the £78 million earned on sales of £3,950 million.

The company said, however, that highly efficient mines would have to close unless improved environmental equipment was fitted to power stations. Seven pits, employing a total of 7,000 workers, will close this year.

British Coal said that it had

achieved its main financial objectives for 1990-1 of an operating profit on deep mining, an operating cash surplus and an overall profit.

The £78 million overall profit is the first surplus it has made since 1977-8. The company's profit figure was inflated at that time because it had followed sharp price increases in the wake of the second wave of oil price rises in the 1970s.

£78m profits, page 21

Unions face new curbs

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government yesterday unveiled its latest proposals on trade union law which would introduce a pre-strike cooling-off period, legally enforceable agreements, and require union officials to reveal their salaries.

But in a move seized on by Labour as a clear indication that the proposals are aimed more at the forthcoming election than reforming employee relations in Britain, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, last night confirmed that legislation on the proposals was unlikely before a general election.

Privately, many employers - let alone trade unions - regard the proposals contained in the green paper published yesterday as a political stunt, irrelevant to industrial relations. But Mr Howard insisted that, despite the record decline in strikes and still-falling level of union membership, each measure outlined in the paper was "carefully designed to meet a clear deficiency in our present arrangements".

The Confederation of British Industry, the main employers' organisation, gave only a cool response to the green paper. While accepting that the proposals were consistent with the government's step-by-step approach, it notably refused to welcome the new measures, saying only it would have to consult its members on them, and reserving its judgment.

Publicly, employers' organisations such as the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Institute of Directors welcomed the measures as a "clarification of, and addition to, government's 12-year legislative programme of union reform, which has in the past been an electoral plus for the Conservatives but in which independent opinion polls now show the public has little interest."

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said the paper was "malicious, one-sided and should be withdrawn", arguing it would be largely irrelevant to people at work. Significantly, the electronics union, the EETPU, which has supported previous Tory union laws and whose practices are extensively quoted with approval in the green

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Women drivers a safer bet, say insurers

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE moment that men most feared has arrived. Women, it is said by Britain's biggest motor insurance group, are safer drivers than men.

Norwich Union says that it will offer discounts worth up to 25 per cent to women drivers because they have fewer accidents than men and because, when they do crash, their repairs cost less. The discounts could be worth as much as £50 for the average woman with a good driving record. Depending on individual circumstances, it could well pay a male car owner to transfer ownership and the insurance to his wife.

Norwich Union has had to enquire behind hoary chauvinism about women at the wheel. Losses on motor insurance last year were £70 million, forcing the group to focus on safer drivers who are going to cost it less. Peter Woolterton, Norwich Union's assistant general manager for personal insurance, said yesterday that statistics proved that women were a better risk than men.

A study of 1,040 drivers showed that 76 per cent of women had not made an accident insurance claim in three years. The statistics become even more pro-women. Men are responsible for 98 per cent of charges for dangerous driving, 95 per cent for drink-driving, 93 per cent for speeding and 99 per cent for reckless driving.

The Norwich Union findings will be backed up today by the Halfords annual road-user survey, in which a third of 500 road-users questioned believed that women were better drivers. Only 8 per cent backed men.

Mr Woolterton said: "Our statistics show that lady motorists make fewer claims than their male counterparts. Their accidents are less serious. So they are better risks."

Norwich Union, however, admitted that women tend to drive fewer miles than men, and also own fewer, and older, cars, suggesting that they use the family's second vehicle while men probably use their cars for work.

Norwich Union's move follows a trend among insurers to pick out the safest drivers, even if it means offending the sensibilities of men.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

PICKLE FINGER

Robin Smith hopes to wake this morning with a fit little finger, a hope shared by all England with the fourth Test at stake Page 36

NATURAL BREAKS

Dr Anne of the BBC is among those who think the right holiday is essential to help us work better. But if there's a war on? Page 11

HORROR STORY

David Calder in *Chimera* is part of the latest evidence showing that fiction is still a poor servant of the image of science Page 14

WASHER WOMAN

Annabel Hands, who set up Britain's first professional all-female plumbing company, has won the Small Business of the Year competition Page 2

UNFRIENDLY FIRE

A board of enquiry has cleared the British military of responsibility for the "friendly fire" attack in which nine British soldiers died in the Gulf war Page 3

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Israel will agree to talks with Arabs

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL has reached an understanding with the United States which removes the final obstacle blocking its acceptance to meet Arab states for peace talks.

Although the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, still has not replied officially to the American peace initiative, senior figures in the government predicted yesterday that a positive response would probably be announced soon, possibly on Sunday.

According to government sources, Washington has succeeded in bypassing the problem of Palestinian representation by promising that Israel will not have to sit at the negotiating table with anyone it considers unacceptable, in particular members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation

and representatives from east Jerusalem, which Israel annexed after its capture in 1967.

Israel says it is prepared to meet a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which would be made up of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, excluding east Jerusalem. Most of the Palestinian delegates would be drawn from the main population centres, Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Gaza City but most of the prominent Palestinian figures are centred in east Jerusalem.

The dramatic conversion of the Israeli right is largely attributable to the realisation that Syria, for decades Israel's most implacable enemy, is serious about peace talks.

Israel taken to task, page 9

Rabid revenge of the evicted vampire bats

FROM MICHAEL KEPP IN RIO DE JANEIRO

ATTACKS by rabid vampire bats in a rural town in Brazil's north-eastern Bahia state have left three people dead and have struck terror into a community now scared to go out at night and urgently seeking medical aid. Media reports claim that up to 500 people in the town of Apora have been attacked.

In a macabre echo of Hollywood horror films such as Hitchcock's *The Birds* or the more recent *Swarm*, movies where nature takes revenge on man for destroying the environment, the bats have been attacking the residents of Apora (population 1,500) since the middle of last month, when loggers started felling trees around caves. The logging allowed light into bat colonies, forcing the nocturnal creatures to other more wood-



Habitat destroyed: a vampire bat shrouded haunts. During their migration the bats have been swooping around the town of Apora, not normally on their flight path, biting residents mostly at night. The bats normally feed on woodland animals

around their caves or on cows and horses. In Apora they are attacking dogs and cats, which transmit rabies more easily to humans than farm animals. The recent deaths in Apora have been from bat-transmitted rabies.

The Bahia health department has sent 3,500 doses of vaccine and hundreds of doses of oral serum to the town. Apora's mayor has asked for 500 more doses of the oral serum because of a high demand. "Many people in Apora are taking the oral antedote and getting inoculated against these bats, even if they haven't been bitten because they have become extremely worried that they may be the next to be attacked," said Dr Eliana de Paula Santos, director of Bahia state health ministry's department of epidemiological safety.

"Many people have even stopped going out at night." Doors and windows of buildings are being covered by netting to prevent the bats from entering.

Tony Hutson, a bat expert with the Bat Conservation Trust in London, said that similar incidents had occurred in Central and South America where vampire bats are found. "Now and again they will enter a village and feed on people for a while. A few years ago in Peru there were attacks when people tried to reopen old gold mines," he said.

Mr Hutson said the events were unpredictable and usually short-lived. Like all warm blooded animals, bats can carry rabies. But the creatures were responsible for very few of the 50,000 annual world-wide deaths from rabies, he added.

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Scottish law chief decides against Piper Alpha prosecutions



Lord Fraser: "No new evidence since enquiry"

NO CRIMINAL proceedings are to be taken after the Piper Alpha disaster, in which 167 men died when the North Sea oil platform exploded three years ago, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Lord Advocate, decided yesterday.

His decision resulted in angry reaction from some of the bereaved relatives and the possibility that they might pursue a private prosecution.

Gavin Cleland, whose son Robert died in the catastrophe, said: "There is something seriously wrong when no one has seen the inside of a police cell in relation to this horrific disaster. It is a scandal of the highest order. Not to

prosecute is a crime itself," Mr Cleland said he would be discussing the possibility of a private prosecution with other relatives.

Peter Spooner, of Disaster Action, said: "The families have every right to be outraged. In almost every disaster in recent years relatives have been left frustrated by the injustices, cover-ups, slow progress of enquiries and inept prosecution cases."

Lord Fraser said that he had decided against criminal proceedings after a report by the procurator fiscal in Aberdeen and an analysis by Crown counsel. "Having given careful consideration to these reports I have

A father whose son died on Piper Alpha said the decision not to take criminal proceedings was a scandal. Kerry Gill reports

decided that there will be no criminal proceedings," he said in a letter to Frank Doran, Labour MP for Aberdeen South.

Lord Fraser said that Lord Cullen, who chaired the public enquiry into the disaster, had said there was no direct evidence as to what happened and that "proof was dependent upon inference from the evidence".

He told Mr Doran: "Very little equipment or physical evidence

could be recovered and a number of key personnel on duty at the time of the disaster tragically lost their lives. You will be aware no new evidence or information regarding the disaster has come to light since the conclusion of Lord Cullen's most thorough and exhaustive enquiry."

"I have had to judge whether the available evidence could establish on the higher test beyond reasonable doubt the cause of and any

criminal responsibility for the disaster. I have considered that it could not."

David Burnside, who represents many of the relatives, said he had not expected that anyone would be charged with culpable homicide although he was a "little surprised" that no prosecutions would be taken under the health and safety at work act. Mr Burnside said some of the relatives would be angry but others would want an end to the matter.

If Occidental, which operated the platform and which has since sold its North Sea interests, had been prosecuted successfully under the act it would have faced

no more than a hefty fine, a "slap over the wrist", Mr Burnside said.

A spokesman for the former Occidental interests, now known as EE Caledonia, said any comment on the Lord Advocate's decision would be inappropriate.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance union will, however, press for criminal proceedings. Roger Lyons, the union's general secretary-designate, said: "In 1984 a Department of Energy investigation into an earlier near disaster on Piper Alpha reported prima facie evidence of a breach of regulations. There was clearly similar or worse conduct leading up to the 1988 disaster."

Minister sets tough rules on package tour failures

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PACKAGE holidaymakers are to receive greater protection against tour companies collapsing and misleading brochures under government proposals announced yesterday.

Tour organisers and travel agents will be liable to criminal charges if they fail to provide full information in their brochures, including transport, type of hotel or villa, locations and standard and the meal plan. Under the proposals outlined by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, no price increases may be made within 20 days of departure and no last-minute surcharges will be allowed.

The government is to introduce a system for licensing all tour operators providing

pre-arranged packages and will establish a back-up fund to make sure holidaymakers can be returned home and repaid if their tour firm goes out of business. The back-up fund will be financed by a levy on package holidays.

The measures being prepared are the result of an EC directive setting minimum standards for brochures and providing tougher financial protection for customers. The proposals are the minimum needed to comply with the directive, adopted in June last year and which must be implemented by the end of next year.

The proposals mean that for the first time tour organisers offering packages by surface will have to be licensed. Licensing will not apply to organisations that only occasionally organise packages, such as youth clubs and churches.

Until now all tour operators who used airlines for their packages had to be licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority and most travel agents and tour operators are affiliated to the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta), which administers the bonds that companies put up to cover business failure. The Air Travel Trust provides additional cash should an air-related company collapse.

There has been no decision who will run the licensing body although Mr Lilley indicated that the government would like the CAA to take on the job.

The collapse of International Leisure Group in March put a severe strain on the resources of the Air Travel Trust, and the demise of a number of surface-travel school-tour operators put an equal strain on Abta. The role of Abta is uncertain as it is a non-regulatory body and could not be considered as the licensing authority.

Package tours to South Africa could become the holiday phenomenon of the 1990s after moves yesterday to allow Virgin Atlantic to fly scheduled services between London and Johannesburg and for charter flights to operate into Durban (Harvey Elliott writes).

A new holiday company, South African Delight, has applied to operate charter package holidays to Durban from November, and Virgin Atlantic, which yesterday was granted a licence by the CAA to fly to Johannesburg, has promised to cut at least 20 per cent off economy and business class fares on the route.

France is this year's top summer holiday destination for MPs, according to a Commons poll. John Major backs the trend: he is thought to be heading for the Mediterranean but it is known he will give France a miss when Parliament rises tomorrow. However 40 per cent of nearly 100 MPs questioned by Abta said they were to visit France.

Diary, page 14

Redundant soldiers warned of job wait

By BILL FROST

MILITARY personnel being made redundant because of the defence cuts have been warned to expect a long wait for a suitable civilian job.

Philip Burton, of the career consultants Inter Exec, said that there were more than 218,000 unemployed executives in Britain looking for jobs with salaries of over £20,000. "It will undoubtedly take time for the economy to reabsorb ex-armed forces personnel," he added.

Sir Jeremy Moore, the Royal Marines who led the British forces in the Falklands war, spent 18 months searching for a job after leaving the service. Sir Jeremy, now a consultant with Inter Exec, said that senior jobs were difficult to secure because of the fierce competition.

The defence ministry said yesterday, however, that redundant servicemen and women would be better off than many jobless civilians. "The training and discipline these men and women have undergone make them a very attractive prospect."

The Royal Marines left Portsmouth yesterday ending a 300-year association with the city. The last 100 men stationed at the marine barracks, which are old and costly to maintain, have moved to new bases in the South.



Plumbing the heights: Annabel Hands, who tapped into the male world of plumbing, in London yesterday after winning the Small Business of the Year competition. She picks up a £10,000 prize package, including £5,000 cash, in a competition sponsored by the magazine *She and Barclays Bank* (writes David Young). Annabel, aged 31, from Haringey, north London, who has a BSC

in biochemistry, wants to create the first all-female plumbing company. She will use the money to buy a van and to take on her first employee by Christmas. Annabel, who wears a plum-coloured boiler suit she designed herself, decided five years ago to switch from advertising to plumbing after fixing her toilet. She said: "I changed a ball valve and I felt thrilled for weeks." Many women, she

said, felt reassured by the presence of a woman plumber rather than a male one in their homes and many male clients liked not having to admit to another man that they could not sort out their plumbing problems. She wants to see craftsmanship return to the trade. "When I lift floorboards and see Edwardian plumbing, I think 'That's beautiful'. It still works."

Report's missing pages urge NHS trust slowdown

THE seventeen pages that have been removed from the main report are highly critical of the government's handling of NHS trusts and suggest that the second wave of self-governing hospitals should be slowed down.

The section, which includes five recommendations, accuses the health department of ignoring obvious signs that trusts were financially unviable and argues that job losses could have been prevented if the hospitals had remained directly managed by the health authority. The

The criteria for trust status were not met at Guy's and Bradford. Jill Sherman reports

rogue paragraphs 103 to 145, which now form an appendix to the main report, examine in detail two trusts which announced impending job cuts in April: Guy's and Lewisham Trust, and Bradford Trust. Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, had cited four cri-

teria which had to be met for trust status: improved quality for patients; good management skills; clinicians involved in management and financial viability. The report suggests that not all these criteria were met at Guy's or Bradford.

The bulk of the report calls for earlier and more detailed information about capital funding of trusts, sources of NHS finance, annual reports on achieving health targets, a reduced reliance on cost improvements and an early intervention in acute services in London.

Nicholas Winterton was engaged in a venomous fight exactly a year ago today with the then Chief Whip Tim Renton (Sheila Gunn writes). Uneasy relations between them disintegrated into fury after Mr Renton took the rare step of sending the maverick MP a letter chronicling his votes in defiance of the "whip", exceptional rudeness to a senior member of the government and failure to obey the basic courtesies.

To make matters worse, the chief whip sent copies to Mr Winterton's constituency and area chairmen. The institution was plain. Unless the outspoken MP mended his ways, the Tory whip would be withdrawn from him. Mr Winterton retaliated by making public his equally stern reply, accusing Mr Renton of being impertinent and discourteous.

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Backing sought for wave energy device

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

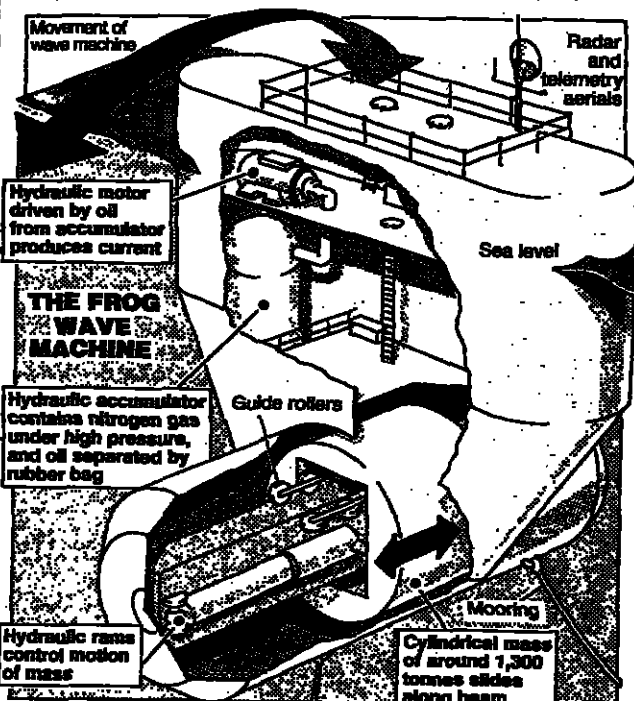
AN OFFSHORE wave energy device called PS Frog has been developed by British engineers who have applied for government backing to bring it to commercial fruition. The device might be capable of rivaling the costs of conventional electricity generation, preliminary studies indicate.

The system is the brainchild of a team at Lancaster university led by Michael French, professor of design engineering. It is a more cost-effective and powerful development of an earlier system

that jumped up an down in waves and was called Frog.

At the heart of the device is a 20 metre paddle and a steel cylinder under the waterline. Inside the cylinder is a can-shaped weight which slides back and forth on tiny wheels. The movement of the weight, caused by the waves, is linked to hydraulic rams which pump oil into a high pressure chamber called an accumulator. This is in turn linked to an hydraulic motor and electric generator.

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Guns admission

Adrian Hopkins took the Dublin Special Criminal Court by surprise yesterday when he pleaded guilty to attempting to import Libyan arms for the IRA into the Irish Republic in his ship, the *El-Sund*, in 1987. He was expected to be making a routine court appearance in connection with his trial, which had been scheduled for later this year. He will return to the court on Monday for sentence.

Kidneys saving

THE health service could save more than £40 million a year if all patients needing a kidney transplant were given one, the Office of Health Economics says today. Each operation costs about £10,000 plus £3,000 a year for follow-up care, but is much cheaper than hospital dialysis treatment, it says. About 4,000 people need a kidney transplant and about half that number of grafts were performed last year.

Heat from waste

About 1,500 homes in Greater Manchester are being heated and lit by electricity generated from rotting rubbish. Yesterday Colin Moyzhan, the energy minister, switched on a Norweb landfill-gas power station. He said Britain was second only to the United States in harnessing waste gas for electricity, and announced a £60,000 grant for Norweb to study the potential for renewable energy in the North-West.

Exhibition off

The National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham has cancelled the contract for a defence components and equipment exhibition in 1993. Church leaders, CND and others opposed to the arms trade protested when the event was held there in May.

Adder bite

A woman aged 65 who nearly died after being bitten by an adder was "poorly but stable" in hospital last night. Joan Phipps tried to pick up the snake while on a walk on Wrotham Heath, near Rochester, Kent, when it bit her.

Tests on Lincoln's shirt may prove he had rare disease

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT



Lincoln: bloodstain clues to president's height

THE shirt that Abraham Lincoln wore on the night he was assassinated may help to confirm that he had a rare disease that made him uncommonly tall.

Tests on bloodstains on the shirt the president wore on that fateful night at Ford's Theatre in Washington in 1865 could show that he inherited Marfan's syndrome, a disorder that has now been traced to a specific genetic defect.

In research published today in *Nature* by American, French and Japanese scientists, the defect is

identified as the probable cause of the syndrome.

The results may be enough to persuade officials of the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Washington to surrender Lincoln's shirt, together with pieces of his bone and hair samples, for DNA analysis by experts. The materials are part of the museum's collection.

Marfan's syndrome, an abnormality of the skeleton, heart and eyes, was not recognised until 30 years after Lincoln's death, but scientists have for some time believed that he exemplified Marfan's characteristics of unusual height, long thin limbs and large hands and feet, and a gaunt

appearance. The Washington correspondent of *The Times* during the American civil war described Lincoln as a "tall, lank, lean man, considerably over six feet in height, with stooping shoulders, long pendulous arms terminating in hands of extraordinary dimensions, which, however, were far exceeded in proportion by his feet".

Techniques of DNA amplification, combined with the new information on the Marfan genetic defect, should enable researchers to make a definitive diagnosis in Lincoln's case.

"The possibility that Lincoln had Marfan's syndrome is a question worth answering now that the means

of doing so are in sight," Victor McKusick, an American geneticist, says in *Nature*.

The Lincoln connection is bound to draw attention to the syndrome among doctors and the general public, Dr McKusick says. "It can do for the disorder what poliomyelitis did for that disease." A polio vaccine was developed in 1955 as a result of research projects initiated by Roosevelt in 1937.

The research in *Nature* points to the fibrillin gene as the likely source of Marfan's syndrome. Fibrillin is a connective tissue protein that helps hold body structures together.

British cleared of blame over Gulf 'friendly fire' raid

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH military personnel have been cleared of responsibility for the mistaken attack by American A10 bomber pilots during the Gulf war on two Warrior combat vehicles, killing nine British soldiers.

An official British board of enquiry did not establish whether the US Air Force pilots were at fault. However, its report published yesterday makes it clear, in diplomatic language, that the US has to answer for the "friendly fire" attack. The report said: "It

was clearly established that the A10s delivered the missiles, but the board could not establish precisely why they attacked the wrong target."

The conclusion will make it almost impossible for victims' families to seek compensation through US or British courts. The defence ministry does not pay compensation for those killed in battle.

A US enquiry placed the blame on a British forward air controller for allegedly telling the A10 pilots the area was

free of friendly forces. But the British report said no blame or responsibility should be attached to the individual concerned, the British assistant divisional air liaison officer. It was inevitable, the report said, that difficulties might arise when individuals were under pressure.

On February 26, the day of the attack, there were difficulties over the location and identification of the target. The report said that there were clear skies and good visibility. That contradicts the initial reports, passed to the families, that visibility had been poor.

The attack came as C Company of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers' battle group, with some 37 Warrior and engineer vehicles, reorganised after an advance through Iraqi positions.

The US pilots had been told there were no friendly forces within ten kilometres of their target. But these vehicles were closer to the target - Iraqi armour. The lead pilot passed over at 15,000ft and then 8,000ft but "saw no friendly markings". Both aircraft fired a Maverick missile from about 9,000ft.

However, the report underlined that British vehicles were displaying correct inverted V recognition symbols and fluorescent panels, which "could have been partially obscured by open hatches or equipment". The report said: "The board was unable to establish why the attacked Warrior vehicles were misidentified by the A10 pilots as enemy T54/55 tanks, particularly in view of their previous identification runs at 8,000ft and 15,000ft."

Soldiers' parents want full enquiry

By BILL FROST

TERRY Satchell, whose 18-year-old son Stephen died in the "friendly fire" attack in the Gulf war, last night demanded an independent enquiry into the incident.

"I am disgusted that the Ministry of Defence has not been able to apportion blame. Someone made a fatal error and they are seeking to cover it up for the sake of good relations with America," Mr Satchell said.

Along with other bereaved parents Mr Satchell, from Rye, East Sussex, plans to mount a campaign aimed at compelling the defence ministry to investigate the incident more fully.

Ann Leech, from Prudhoe, Northumberland, whose son Kevin, aged 20, was killed in the American attack, said last night that she was disgusted that the defence ministry had failed to reach a conclusion.

"All the families involved will have to get together soon to decide the next step. This is not the end of the matter," she said. "The report is a cop-out."

A statement issued last night on behalf of Jim and Kathleen Donald, the parents of Neil Donald, aged 18, who also died in the attack, said: "We regret that there is continuing disagreement over why the US aircraft involved were so far off course and why they wrongly identified the British vehicles as hostile targets."

Private Donald came from Forres, Grampian. He was one of three Scottish soldiers killed in the incident. The others were Private William Lang and Private Martin Ferguson. Simon Ferguson, Private Ferguson's father, said that the report told him no more than he and his wife, Jeanette, knew when they were told of their son's death.



Stage-struck: young hopefuls queuing for auditions for the musical *Miss Saigon* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, yesterday. Among ticket touts outside the central London theatre, the Asian children auditioning may well have been suspected of trying to leapfrog their way into one of the most booked-up musicals in town (Joe Joseph writes). As far as the parents were concerned, their three-

year-olds were on the foothills of stardom and would one day, soon, feature in an incomprehensible headline in *Variety*, something like "Wild Child Who Licks Pix is Saigon Bygone".

As far as the children were concerned, it was a change from nursery, though for some, apparently not a happy one. "Tell all these people to go away and leave us alone,

mmmmy," wailed one Filipino girl, either scared by the crowd of photographers in the theatre wings, or else showing early signs of a starlet's tantrum. The part on offer was that of Tam, the heroine's half-caste love child. Tam is a boy, but both boys and girls act the part. The show has been through 20 or so times in its two-year run. There are usually around five in the cast, working on a

rota. The children, seen but never heard, can work only 40 days a year, and only part of each week, and must have every fourth week off.

Martin Lagmay, a Filipino, seemed quite at ease on a stage, but his father, Lemna, had a worry. "We live in Hounslow," he said. "If he gets the part, the headache is going to be parking the car around here when we bring him for performances."

Battle looms over splitting the NRA

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government's plan for a new environment agency, announced two weeks ago by John Major and likely to be the most glamorous green commitment in the Tory election manifesto, may shortly blow up in ministers' faces because of an argument about the shape of the body.

At issue is whether or not the National Rivers Authority, which in its two years of existence has built up a formidable reputation as a pollution watchdog, should go into the agency whole, or be split up, with many of its functions being hived off to the agriculture ministry. This course, which is being pursued by the ministry, would be regarded as calamitous by the NRA and pressure groups.

At the moment only the NRA's pollution control functions are definitely destined for the new agency. The question of other responsibilities such as water resource management, fisheries, land drainage and flood defence, has been left open, and the ministry is lobbying to acquire them. So far, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, whose department sponsors the NRA, has shown no public sign of resisting, and this is causing concern to NRA staff and to the pressure groups, who do not perceive the agriculture ministry as environment-friendly.

"If these key NRA functions go to the agriculture ministry the government is heading for a major row," said Andrew Lees, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth.

Some observers feel worse trouble could arise for ministers through criticism from the NRA chairman, Lord Crickhowell, a former Conservative cabinet minister, who declined to comment on the position but is known to be convinced that integrated control over the whole water environment is essential.

Mr Heseltine is studying the situation. However, the machine has swung into action to prepare legislation for the agency and a decision on its shape will be taken soon, perhaps within two weeks.

Seven jails to close in efficiency drive

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN jails are to close and 15 others are to take on new functions under a review of the prison estate in England and Wales, the Home Office announced yesterday. The review is designed to increase prison department efficiency and to place inmates nearer their homes.

Establishments to be closed include Oxford jail, built in 1858, one of Britain's oldest prisons, Pucklechurch remand centre near Bristol, which was badly damaged in last year's prison riots, and Finsbury Wood Camp, a young offenders' institution based on an old, hatted military camp. The others earmarked for closure are: Kirkcubbin, Grange, Cleveland; Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent; Hewell Grange, Redditch; and Aldington, Kent.

The Home Office is also to change the status of 15 institutions to allow more of the 45,250 inmates to be closer to their families. Progressives within the department see this as the first stage in a national network of multi-purpose "community jails" - a central

recommendation of the Woolf report. The review also indicates that overcrowding, the scourge of the system for the past 20 years, will be beaten only briefly during the 1990s in spite of the opening of new jails and the extension of sentencing guidelines that aim to increase the use of non-custodial penalties for property offenders.

Officials now estimate that during the 1990s there will be an overall surplus of prison places only in the financial years 1994-5, 1995-6 and 1996-7. The last two years of the decade will see the re-emergence of a big deficit.

Ministers had hoped the £1 billion prison building programme that began in 1989 would have provided the system with a longer respite from overcrowding, an ill pinpointed by Lord Justice Woolf as a key source of tension in prisons. However, recent big increases in recorded crime and a decision by the government to speed up the provision of lavatories in cells have forced a gloomier assessment.

Circuit system in courts faces curb

By FRANCIS GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government is examining ways of curtailing the traditional circuit system, under which High Court judges spend half the legal year in the provinces trying the most serious cases.

The Lord Chancellor intends to put proposals to the four most senior judges - the High Court heads of division, including the Lord Chief Justice - which could mean far fewer High Court judges leaving London. The cases they handle, the most serious civil and criminal cases, would instead be heard by the 400 lower-tier circuit judges.

Officials have carried out research that apparently shows that High Court judges on circuit, between 22 and 28 at any time, are not always used to best effect and that some of the cases they try could be dealt with by circuit judges. The idea is to move some of them back to London to help to cut the backlog of cases in the Court of Appeal criminal division and the civil division.

The proposals are certain to infuriate senior judges, who

will see the moves as an encroachment by the executive on their independence, and a weakening of the judges' power base. The proposals will also fuel the antagonism between the senior judiciary and the government, which recently came to a head publicly when Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, gave a warning that the High Court system was at breaking point because of the shortage of judges.

Yesterday Lord Ackner, a senior law lord, said: "Many of us have known for some time that it is the ultimate intention of the executive to abolish the circuit system." Such a proposal was "seriously objectionable".

He said that the savings to be made in the cost of the administration of justice were small and at the expense of quality, which he described as an application of false priorities and "typical bureaucratic cheese-paring". The proposals would also achieve a further shift in power away from the independent judiciary and into the hands of civil servants.

Jobless students get hardship help

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS aided yesterday to quell growing concerns about the level of student debt over the summer. Universities, polytechnics and colleges are to be allowed to dip into next year's hardship funds to cope with urgent cases.

The withdrawal of state benefits has combined with a shortage of vacation jobs to reduce the sources of cash available to students this year. The National Union of Students appealed unsuccessfully to the government to restore vacation hardship allowances after receiving scores of calls from members unable to keep up the rent on flats and houses over the summer.

Without reversing that decision, Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, yesterday announced that up to £2.58 million intended for use in the 1991-2 academic

year would be released early. The money represents 10 per cent of next year's access funds, introduced with the student loans scheme to cater for students facing financial difficulties.

● Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday took the first step in the creation of a unified higher education system by appointing Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council, to run the universities as well. Sir Ron will assume responsibility for the Universities Funding Council in November when Lord Chilver retires. ● State schools will have to introduce regular appraisal of teachers' performance starting next term, Mr Clarke said yesterday. This will include classroom observation by a senior colleague.



Lyne believes radiation renders life unlikely

Scientists find planet beyond the Sun

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ASTRONOMERS at Jodrell Bank have for the first time identified a planet outside the solar system. It is about ten times bigger than the Earth and in orbit around a neutron star. The discovery will revive speculation of life on other planets, though this one seems an unlikely candidate.

Astronomers have been unable to spot planets using telescopes, probably because the planets are smaller and dimmer than their parent stars. But Andrew Lyne, Matthew Bailes and Sean Shemar, who announced their discovery yesterday in *Nature*, studied the neutron star PSR 1829-10, which is a pulsar, through the radio telescope. The pulses arrived 100th of a second early and then 100th of a second late every six months. The likely explanation was movement towards Earth and away from it, and that could only be possible if the star formed a binary system with another object.

Professor Lyne believes that the chances of life on the planet are not high. It is bathed in radiation, mostly in the form of gamma rays, making life as we know it impossible.



Bird man: a scrapbook sketch of hickering hawks near his West Sussex home has won John Davis, aged 35, a magazine award as bird illustrator of the year

Kevin seeks tall role model without Cortina

By KEVIN EASON

SAMMY Davis Jr thought life was tough being a black, one-eyed Jew. He should try being a short Northern called Kevin.

Yesterday was National Kevin Day, apparently a day of unconfined joy, dancing in the streets, bunting and streamers. Everyone was in merry mood to celebrate one of the country's new national occasions - everyone, that is, except Kevin.

A Kevin is, colleagues tell me, the sort of person who drives a Ford Cortina with furry dice dangling in the windscreen and who wears his shirt open to the navel. He is the sort of person who wears grey shoes,

holidays on the coast, and drinks purple-coloured, umbrella-bedecked cocktails with his chips.

Apparently the nation's Kevins are in uproar. There is a society for the defence of Kevins determined to focus attention on strong, silent macho Kevins. So far it has found only Kevin Costner, Hollywood's flavour of the year and now, I am reminded by back-slapping colleagues, my role model.

Presumably those Kevins not fighting back are covering in a corner trying to see how they can change their name by deed poll. The danger with that, of course, is that one might ricochet into some other minority name group. What about a name

that smacks of middle-class solidity, such as Jeremy (too twee, perhaps), or Timothy (all wimps), or with royal connections such as Charles?

Or why not just go for something popular but dull and submerge myself among the millions of Peters, Pauls, Johns and Williams? Or I could raise my profile by being outrageous but mysterious with Erasmus or Obadiah?

Mr Costner apart, the problem is that we Kevins are short of role models. One of the most famous Kevins, if not the only famous one, seems to have been an obscure 7th century Saint Kevin who lived in a cave in Ireland. Hardly the basis for a Satchi and Satchi image-building

campaign. Perhaps the royal family could take a lead with their next male offspring. King Kevin has a certain ring to it. Until then, I will have to live with being a Kevin.

But there is more... and it is worse. At 5ft 6in, I am a victim of heightism, which manifests itself in many hilarious and original remarks such as: "Stand up, Eason. You are standing up," or "Motoring correspondent for *The Times*? Are you sure you can reach the car's pedals?"

But I shall rise above all that. For beneath this short, Northern exterior of a Kevin beats the heart of a much taller, intellectual macho man called... Darren.

Woman is jailed for death plot

A WOMAN was jailed for 15 years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for a plot to kill moderate Sikhs. Gurnam Sarkaria, aged 42, a Sikh extremist, was trapped by undercover anti-terrorist police from Scotland Yard.

Two detectives risked their lives to infiltrate her organisation. They posed as contract killers and accepted an offer of £100,000 from Sarkaria, a rich businesswoman, of Feltham, southwest London, to shoot dead a leading Sikh moderate in Southall, west London.

Sarkaria was convicted of conspiracy to murder, and admitted conspiracy to obtain explosives. Her lodger, Sutpal Binjia, aged 23, a student, was jailed for ten years on the same charges, on which he was found guilty. Farnjit Singh Sidhu, aged 35, a car worker, of Luton, Bedfordshire, was convicted on the explosives charge and jailed for 11 years.

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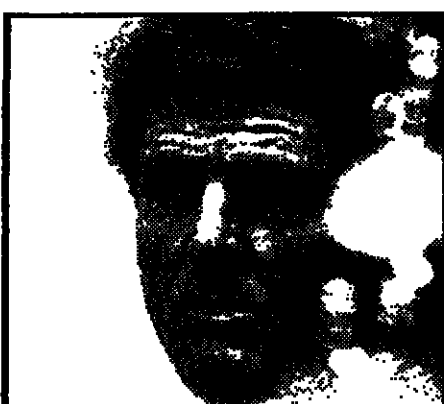
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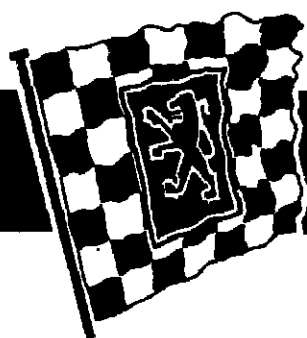
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سازمان تبلیغات

Green paper outlines ministers' next step in forming an industrial relations strategy for the 1990s

Howard plans to create 'strike by appointment' law

THE government's latest proposals for trade union law, published yesterday, are intended to build on the changes of the past decade and to continue modernising industrial relations "to meet the challenges of the 1990s".

The green paper, brought forward by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, forms the sixth major piece of union legislation introduced by the Conservatives since 1979. The proposals fall into five main areas:

The government believes there is a strong case for establishing in British law a minimum "cooling-off period" last tried in Britain 20 years ago. Once a union in dispute had held a ballot, it would be required to give seven days' notice in writing of any strike to any employer involved, identifying which workers were to be called out and on what date. Notice could be given only after the formal notification of the ballot results to employees and employers.

In the case of a series of one-day strikes or other intermittent action, seven days' notice would be required for each day. Separately, all strike ballots would have to be fully conducted by post where there were 50 or more employees involved.

Anyone would have a right to sue a trade union taking unlawful industrial action affecting public services. The right to go to law to prevent or restrain such action would apply both in advance of any services being reduced or halted, and during any action. Cases could be brought even if the workers taking action were not directly employed by the public service affected.

The paper says that after the "blatant attempt to rig" the results of a ballot in the TGWU transport workers' union, new legislative powers are required. The government will give union members a statutory right to inspect



Michael Howard in the Commons yesterday

Philip Bassett details the government's latest proposals for strengthening union legislation

union membership registers, and to allow similar access to independent scrutineers.

There are three main proposals:

● The government believes that the TUC's so-called Bridlington principles, which organise inter-union relations, deny individual freedom by often preventing employees from joining the union of their choice. Where more than one union operates in a particular occupation or industry, it is proposed that employees be free to choose without the constraint of any inter-union arrangement.

● The government says that union subscriptions are often deducted from pay by employers, which can be prevented only by an employee resigning from the union. It wants to make it unlawful for an employer to deduct union subscriptions from pay without the express written consent of the employee, renewed annually, and possibly renewed whenever subscription levels are changed by the union.

● Ballots on union mergers will in future have to be held in secret, by post, and subject to independent scrutiny.

The paper says that the dispute in the National Union of Mineworkers over the union's finances, and the Lightman report, indicate clearly that more needs to be done to protect members' financial interests. The government proposes to increase the investigative powers of the certification officer, the independent government official with responsibility for overseeing unions' financial arrangements, and increase the court fines for failing to comply with the law from their present level of £400 per offence to £2,000. Any union official found guilty of an offence would be banned from holding their office, or standing for it again, for an as yet unspecified period.

Unions would be required annually to provide each member with written details of their financial affairs and controls, and to submit on their normal annual financial returns, available for public inspection, details of the pay, loans and benefits for all union presidents, general sec-

retaries and executive committee members.

The government proposes to give employers and unions the option of US-style, legally-binding collective agreements. It believes that unions may be more ready for such a step, some of them having signed strike-free and single-union agreements, and envisages deals that effectively preclude industrial action.

If an agreement were broken by industrial action, either party to it would be able to sue the other for damages, or obtain an injunction restraining the action. The option of legally-binding agreements would not be retrospectively enforceable.

Industrial Relations in the 1990s: Proposals and further reform of industrial relations and trade union law (Stationery Office, £6)

Leading article, page 15



Union conflict: miners protesting for the right to vote during the 1984 strike

Unions' power drained by ten years of reform

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SUCCESSIVE employment ministers have followed a step-by-step approach to curbing what they regarded as the worst excesses of trade union power. The five main acts introduced since the Tories were elected are:

The Employment Act 1980 gave employers legal remedies against secondary picketing and most other types of secondary action. All new closed shops had to be approved by four fifths of the workforce and public funds were made available to encourage unions to hold postal ballots.

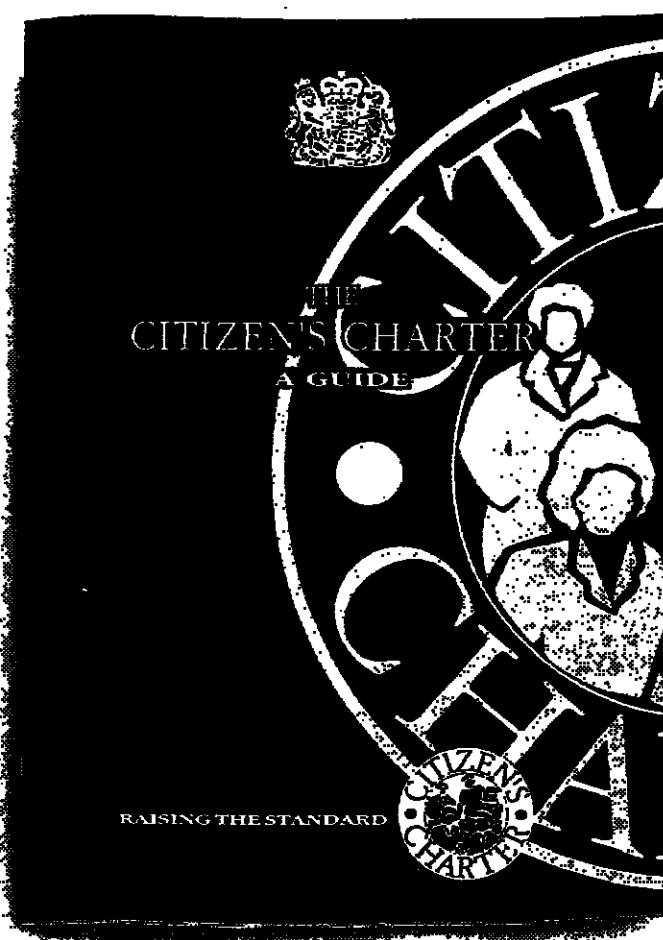
The Employment Act 1982 further tightened the law on closed shops and outlawed union-labour-only contracts. Trade unions were made liable for damages if they instigated unlawful industrial action. Employers were given legal remedies against political strikes.

The Trade Union Act 1984 sought to strengthen internal union democracy. Pre-strike ballots were required for

unions to retain their immunity from civil action for damages. Unions had to hold a secret ballot every 10 years if they wished to keep a political fund. Union executives had to submit themselves for re-election by secret ballot every five years.

The Employment Act 1988 aimed to strengthen the rights of individual union members. Strikes in defence of the closed shop lost all legal protection. Workers were allowed to apply for court orders instructing unions to repudiate industrial action organised without a secret ballot. Unions were banned from disciplining members refusing to support industrial action. All senior union officials had to be elected by secret ballot.

The Employment Act 1990 made unions legally liable for wildcat strikes called by shop stewards without a proper ballot. All vestiges of legal protection for the closed shop were removed. People could not be refused a job for not belonging to a union.

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T/7

Crew saved as collision yacht sinks

Seven yachtsmen aged 16 to 31 were rescued yesterday minutes before their vessel sank after being in collision with a tanker carrying liquefied gas.

Members of the Poole Sailing Trust had left Brixham, Devon for Alderney, when their yacht, the Dorothy Hackforth, was in collision with a 1,300-tonne Danish tanker 14 miles outside Torbay. They were rescued by the tanker's crew and taken to Brixham.

Porn disc test

The Director of Public Prosecutions is to decide whether the sale of computer discs containing pornographic images contravene obscene publications laws after Wiltshire police seized 72 discs from a mail order company.

Mersey strike

More than 400 members of Liverpool's treasury department began an indefinite strike, joining 200 housing benefit staff. The dispute is over the city council's refusal to find jobs for 12 Nalco members made redundant.

Royal help

Sean Keegan, aged 24, of King's Lynn, Norfolk, has been given a £1,500 grant and £1,000 loan by the Prince of Wales's Trust to set up a tattoo design studio.

Well bred

Four pairs of white-tailed sea eagles, Britain's largest bird of prey, have raised a record seven young in Scotland.

Disease in beehives hits record levels

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S beehives are suffering from a record incidence of a bacterial disease that attacks and kills bee larvae. Officials monitoring the infection, known as European Foul Brood, say more funds are needed for research into its cause and spread.

Reports to the agriculture ministry of colonies affected by the disease rose from 136 in 1985 to 562 in 1990, a figure likely to be at least matched this year. Britain has 40,000 beekeepers, mostly amateurs, managing 180,000 colonies.

Medwin Bew, head of the ministry's national bee unit, said: "The disease has been around for many years, but we really do not know much about it or why it should be on the increase. It does not necessarily kill the colony, but it is very debilitating and can drastically reduce the output of honey. Kent, Hereford and Worcester, Hampshire, Dorset and Devon are among the worst-affected areas."

Infected colonies could be treated with antibiotics, fed to the bees in sugar syrup, but only by authorised bee officers, he said. Ken Ellis, general secretary of the Bee Farmers' Association, said that control of the disease had been hampered by a government cut-back since the mid-1980s in the number of bee officers making regular field inspections.

Lamont sticks to his 'recovery starts this year' forecast

By PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

The chancellor last night stood by his forecast that the economic recovery will begin in the second half of this year, in the face of a scathing Labour attack on his powers of prediction.

Norman Lamont said in the Commons: "I know it has been a very difficult and painful struggle for very many firms but we are firmly on course for inflation at 4 per cent by the last quarter of 1991. We are the only major industrialised country where inflation is lower than it was a year ago and by the end of the year I expect inflation to be below the European Community average."

Challenged directly on whether the recovery has begun in line with his forecasts, he said: "A few weeks into the second half of the year, we do not yet have the statistics published for output in the second quarter of the year." Nevertheless, he hailed "encouraging signs", highlighted the retail price figures published earlier this week and added: "I stick by the forecast I gave at the time of the Budget".

He was responding in a Labour-inspired debate on the

economy to John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, who spoke of "the wing and a prayer antics of a beleaguered government seeking desperately to create the illusion of recovery".

Mr Smith derided ministers



Smith: attacked record on economic forecasts for casting doubt on economic forecasts by others — he highlighted OECD predictions of unemployment above three million — given their own record.

He cited figures claiming to show that the government had

been awry in predictions over the past few years for inflation, the balance of payments, growth and investment. To the delight of his own backbenchers, he demanded: "Why should we believe them when they say that recovery is around the corner?"

"Did not the prime minister tell us in the autumn statement 1990: 'The British economy is coming back on track'. No hint of recession there. No intimation of the falling output, falling investment and rising unemployment which was to come."

At the same time, only eight months ago, Mr Major had said: "We shall be back into growth next year at an accelerated rate."

Mr Smith, who said these forecasts had proved "absurdly wrong", added: "This debate gives Mr Lamont the opportunity to tell us when the much talked about recovery will happen; when will unemployment start coming down instead of rising month after month."

He went on to call for a lasting investment-led recovery, accusing the government of seeking a consumer-led recovery that would be short term

and repeat the "boom and bust" cycle.

Mr Smith demanded that interest rates should be cut to the same levels as those of Britain's European competitors and called for investment in plant and machinery, new technology and research and development.

Mr Lamont said that the government was in the process of transforming the United Kingdom into a permanently low-inflation country. Unemployment was still rising as one would expect at this stage of the cycle, but the faster wage-bargainers adjusted to low inflation, the better the medium-term prospects for employment.

There was more and more evidence that workers were looking beyond the size of their pay cheques to take account of the long-term future of their company and their jobs. "If they continue to do so, employment prospects will recover relatively quickly [after] the recession."

However, adoption of the EC social charter or Labour's proposed minimum wage would price hundreds of people out of their jobs. The effects of interest rate cuts on

business finances and household budgets had been considerable, he added. Industry's annual interest bill had been cut by more than £5 billion and a family with a typical £30,000 mortgage would see its disposable income increase by about £60 a month.

Peter Kilfoyle, the Labour victor at the Liverpool Walton by-election, was given a warm reception from Labour colleagues when he made his maiden speech. After paying tribute to his predecessor, Eric Heffer, he went on to blame the government for the rise in unemployment on Merseyside, the fall in manufacturing industry and the drift away of population.

Despite the promise that prosperity would come to all through the "trickle down" process, life on Merseyside had got steadily worse, he told the House. There would be no economic revival until there was a Labour government. The hopes and aspirations of the people of his area had been sacrificed on the altar of economic dogmatism. People had lost jobs, prospects and even hope. It was no wonder that they treated government promises with suspicion.



Hard hat area: John Major "topping out" a new building at Guy's Hospital, London, yesterday

House value survey to start

The Treasury released £61 million from the contingency reserve yesterday to enable the Inland Revenue to start work next month on valuing more than 20 million homes in preparation for the introduction of the council tax in 1993. The total cost of the valuation is expected to be about £250 million. At least some of the work of allocating properties to one of the eight valuation bands will be put out to competitive tender by surveyors and estate agents.

Bishops win robes battle

Bishops have won the right to vote in the Lords without having to wear their robes. The change in rule comes after protests from the Opposition and from the bishops over an incident involving the Bishop of Chester, the Right Rev Michael Baughen.

Because he was not wearing his robes he was barred from voting in a division last month in which the government was defeated by four votes on an amendment to the criminal justice bill.

Parking help

The orange badge scheme which gives parking concessions to the disabled is to be extended, Christopher Chope, roads and traffic minister, announced in a written reply. The entitlement to the badge is to be given to all people with a mobility allowance or a war pensioners' mobility supplement and to those with severe upper limb disabilities who cannot put coins into meters. Waiting times on yellow lines will be extended to three hours and moves will be made to tackle abuse.

New peer



Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC (above), the wartime bomber pilot and founder of the worldwide network of Cheshire homes, was introduced in the Lords as Lord Cheshire. One of his sponsors was his wife, Lady Ryder of Warsaw, of the Sue Ryder foundation for the sick and disabled.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Summer adjournment debates on a variety of topics. Lords (11): Debate on Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and other areas.

Labour to curb union influence

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership decided yesterday to end the guaranteed role of the unions in the reselection of MPs and selection of parliamentary candidates.

The ruling national executive agreed to scrap the electoral college, which has given trade unions a 40 per cent say, and replace it with a one-member, one-vote system.

At the same time, it decided to end the process by which MPs automatically have to face reselection in every parliament. In future, they will have to go through the time-consuming process only if the party members in their constituency decide in a ballot early in a parliament that a vote should take place.

The present system has led to widespread criticism that highly respected MPs such as Frank Field in Birkenhead could be dropped despite having the backing of a majority of party members in their constituency.

However, the executive also agreed that the unions could retain an influence. The new rules to go before the party conference in the autumn will give constituency management committees the power to decide that the reselection vote should include trade union members who live in the area and who pay the political levy to the Labour party.

If that happens, the vote of a levy-payer will be considered to be worth one third that of a party member and the overall result will be weighted accordingly.

Party officials predicted last night that the power would be used only rarely. In practice, it is also felt by the leadership that only few reselections will take place each parliament, and will usually involve cases where MPs are not felt to be doing a satisfactory job for their constituents.

Whitehall 'has to change its role'

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CENTRAL government departments have been urged to rethink their role as a result of the devolution of many activities to agencies.

The departments are criticised for failing to give detailed consideration to their changing role and their relationship with the units set up under the Next Steps initiative.

A cross-party committee of MPs said that if more power was to be given to the management of agencies now running vast parts of the Whitehall empire, the central departments must have a clearer idea of their new role and powers. It also urged the Treasury and Cabinet Office to develop a policy on the overall future direction of the civil service in the wake of the initiative to create semi-autonomous units.

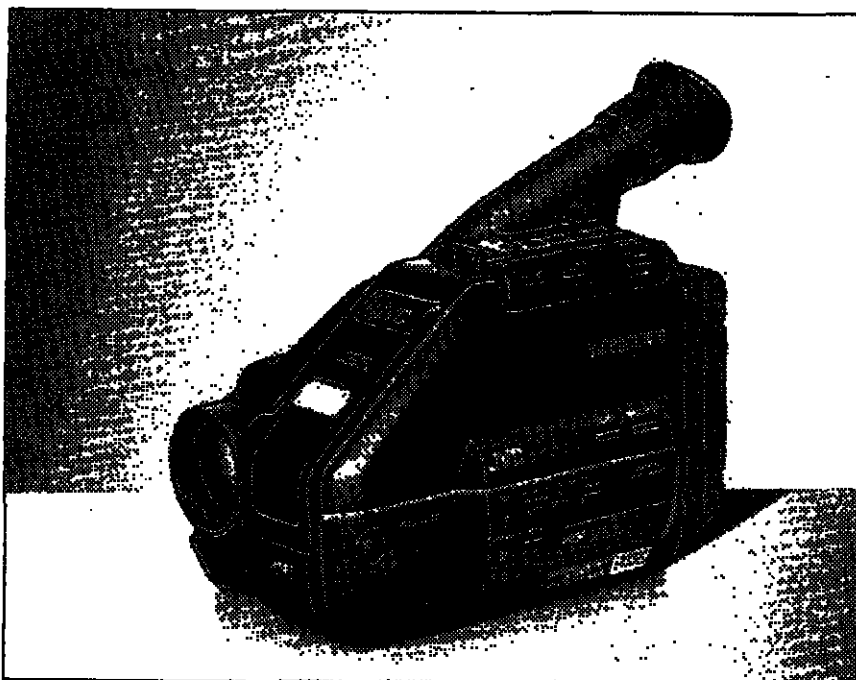
The MPs said: "There appears to be a reluctance to address the problems that Next Steps raises for the future of a unified civil service." They added: "It would not be satisfactory if a major change in the structure of the civil

service were to be introduced piecemeal without proper opportunity for full public discussion."

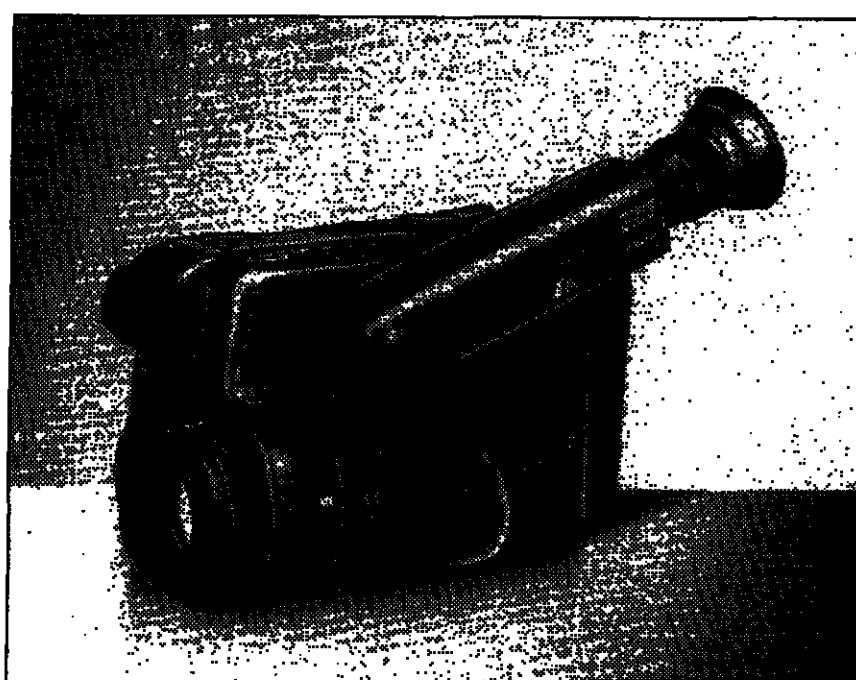
They criticised the Treasury for having imposed detailed rules on management matters but being much more lax about the manner in which departments and agencies reported their activities to Parliament and the public. "This", the report by the Treasury and civil service select committee said on Tuesday, "is almost an inversion of the centre's proper role; we would wish to see the centre concerned with laying down the basic requirements by which managers had to abide, and monitoring to ensure that those requirements were observed."

The call for a re-evaluation of the role of the central departments reflects concern that Whitehall is failing to adopt a "hands-off" attitude towards the agencies and is not giving thought to reducing the number of people employed in ministries in the light of work being devolved to the units.

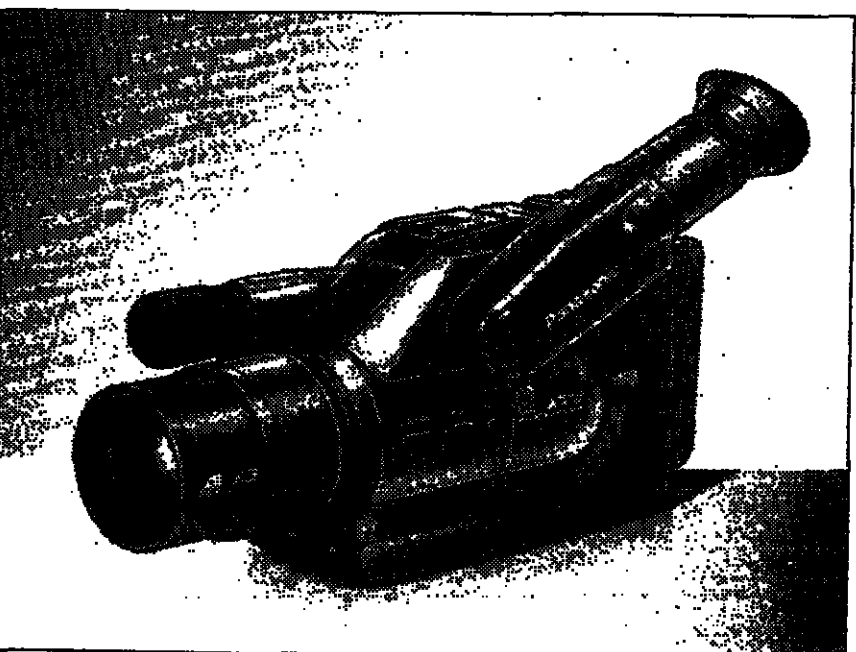
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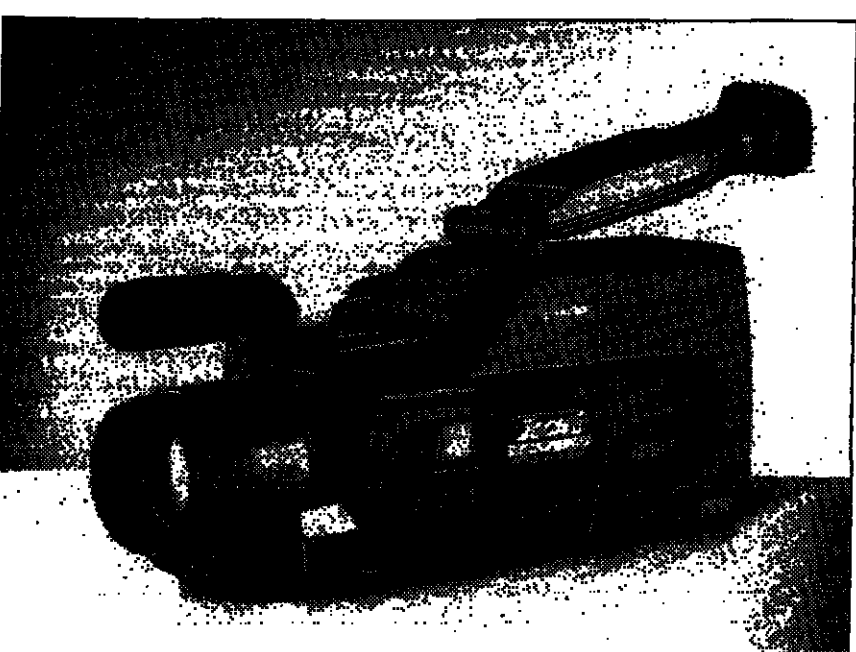
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Civil servants' pay is to be linked to performance

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government signalled yesterday far-reaching changes to the pay of more than half a million civil servants under its direct control as part of its citizen's charter drive to make public services work better.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, declared the government's intention to renegotiate the pay agreements covering 550,000 civil servants, with the intention of greatly extending performance-related pay and allowing the devolution of pay bargaining arrangements from the Treasury.

The move marks the most radical change in the civil

service pay structure since the government scrapped civil servants' comparability-based pay system a decade ago, a move that led to a five-month-long strike.

Mr Lamont said: "The government aims to improve the standard and efficiency of all our public services. That is what the citizen's charter is all about. We need more flexible civil service pay systems which will help to achieve these objectives."

The civil service unions dismissed the proposals as irrelevant, arguing that there was little in them that could not have been negotiated within present pay agreements. Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said that Mr Lamont's plan was nothing more than "a cosmetic and cynical exercise in pre-election hype".

Under the proposals announced by the Chancellor, after the summer holidays the Treasury will begin negotiating with the unions radical alterations to the present pay agreements with the aim of having them in place before the April pay settlement date next year for most civil service grades.

The Treasury is considering a range of specific proposals on relating pay more closely to performance and especially to quality of service, with the aim of increasing both the number of civil servants covered by performance pay and the proportion of their pay that is dependent on performance. About 3 to 5 per cent of the present pay bill of up to £8 billion is accounted for by performance pay.

Among the options being considered are pushing performance pay right down the pay scales, and not just keeping it to those civil servants at the top of their scales or who have received a top-rank marking under the service's present performance system. Individual judgments would be made for higher-rank staff, while lower-grade employees would be judged on pre-set criteria.

Another option would be to link units of manpower — departments, offices or teams — to particular measures of service quality, so that pay in a benefits office, for instance, might be linked to such standards as timeliness in dealing with claims, or the accuracy of work.

As a second strand, the government is prepared to devolve pay arrangements to individual departments, or to any of the Next Steps semi-privatised agencies that have been drawn away from the mainstream civil service, such as the employment service, or Customs and Excise. Departments and agencies would have the option of holding to part of the overall Treasury agreements, though the size of their pay deals will still all be contained within overall pay targets.

Tiny problem for the ombudsman

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY complex cases cross the desk of the parliamentary ombudsman but few as intriguing as the complaint from a woman that involved a social security benefit and the delicate matter of family planning.

To ensure that she was able to claim a specific rate of maternity benefit, the woman



Sir Antony Buck: case intrigued his committee and her husband planned the date of the arrival of their baby on the basis of information provided on benefits by the social security department. But timing is everything in such matters and the baby had already arrived when the couple discovered that the woman did not qualify for the benefit they had confidently expected. They promptly complained to the ombudsman, claiming that they had been misled by the departmental leaflet.

William Reid, the parliamentary ombudsman, told MPs that the couple had found out that all their careful family planning had been to no avail only when it was too late and the baby was born. He said that it had been a fascinating complaint and added: "I must say that I admire these young women in being able to plan these things so carefully."

He told the select committee on the parliamentary commissioner for administration, under its Conservative chairman, Sir Antony Buck, that he had been able to help the couple. After taking up their case with the social security department, he persuaded officials to make an ex gratia payment to the couple. Mr Reid added: "Other claimants may not have been so fortunate."

The select committee's report, published yesterday, said that, despite improvements, there remained a stable number of complaints from people claiming that they had been misled by the wording of a leaflet. Although the new benefits agency is making efforts to improve the information leaflets and the advice in them, the report said that the acid test would be in whether there was a downward trend in complaints and investigations relating to the department.

Polite exchanges turn into slanging matches



Allen: his recommendation of a minute's "injury time" for MPs rejected by procedure committee

Neil Kinnock and John Major used to get on. At first, question times between them used to be comparatively civilised. But now there will be many more slanging matches like this week's.

We like to pretend that elections are about policies, but they are becoming steadily more presidential. With John Major registering 58 per cent satisfaction and Neil Kinnock only 33 per cent as a potential replacement, Labour has to seek to close the gap by going after the prime minister.

That explains the "dithers" tag they tried to attach. That explains the attempt to drag him into the BCCI affair until it closes round his chin. They have to destroy that "Honest John" image that even one of Mr Kinnock's own whips acknowledged in opening Tuesday's exchanges.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, having first set Labour antennae quivering by saying last week that he had kept the prime minister (as Chancellor) briefed on the BCCI goings on, said this week that he had given him no details of irregularities, thus technically putting him in the clear. But Labour has succeeded in establishing the



question: even if ex-Chancellor Major did not know what was going on in BCCI until the governor told him on June 28, should he not have done more to find out?

Labour attacked the citizen's charter for containing no new proposals for a freedom of information act. Not relevant, say ministers. But the relevance is underlined in a new report from the Campaign for Freedom of Information. Citizens in Britain, it reminds us, can often obtain better information affecting their own safety and welfare across the Atlantic under the American Freedom of Information Act than they can here.

Among its examples are these: British cruise liners crossing the Atlantic are checked by health inspectors at both ends. The American reports tell you which vessels had cockroaches in the kitchens and which failed to

disinfect their jacuzzis. Bulletins are circulated, including Mr Major's beloved league tables. No details of British ports health authority findings are made public.

The campaign says that details of an investigation into a well known fungicide produced by ICI are available in the public reading room of the environmental protection agency in Washington, with the agency's correspondence with the firm. In Britain, data on 90 per cent of pesticides remain confidential, although more disclosures are being made.

Inspection reports on British pharmaceutical companies are available under the American act. A health department official who released them here would commit a criminal offence, risking a two-year jail sentence.

Contrary to taxi driver opinion, there are no more fools or comers in the Commons than you find in any other walk of life. But it does have more than its fair share of gasbags over-fond of the sound of their own voice. I recall the lawyer-MP who complained on being told that he had three minutes for a speech from the floor at the Conservative

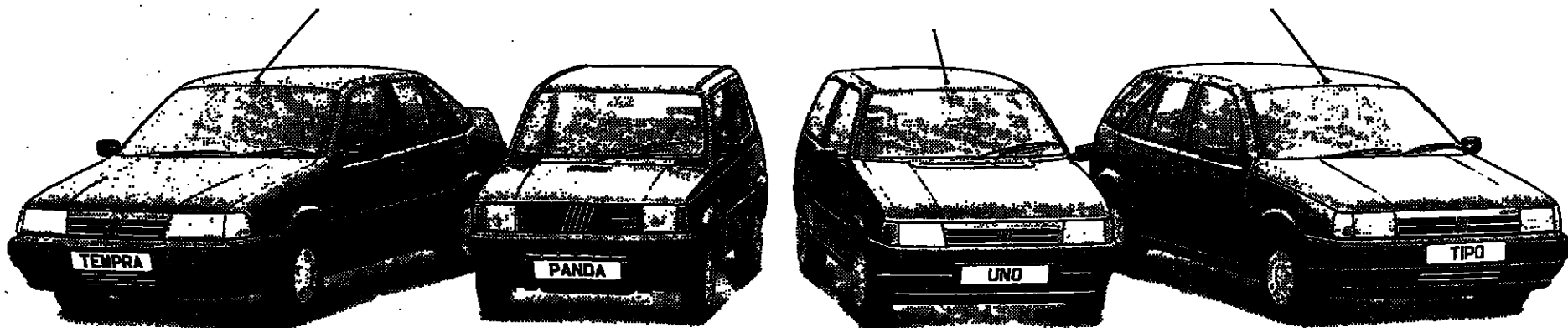
party conference that that was no more than the time he was allowed in the central criminal court merely to clear his throat.

Good news then that in the interests of wider debate, the Commons procedure committee has called for the Speaker to be able to limit backbench speeches to just ten minutes in any debate he chooses. But what a pity that the rather timorous little report did not go further.

Instead of a firm 20-minute rule for ministers, as suggested by many MPs, there is only a recommendation "that the leader of the House should draw to the attention of ministers, perhaps in the form of a note of guidance, the desirability of ensuring that, as a matter of normal practice, speeches should be drafted to a basic length of no more than 20 minutes". Preferably not by the person responsible for penning that recommendation paragraph.

And the committee unwisely refused the suggestion from Labour backbencher Graham Allen that there should be a one-minute injury time for backbenchers whose ten-minute orations are interrupted by giving way to interventions. What we need is the restoration of genuine debate.

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Bomb attacks signal communist ploy to intimidate Balts

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN NARVA, ESTONIA

SOVIET hardliners in the Baltic republics may be switching to a new twin-track strategy which could prove more dangerous than anything previously. It involves, on the one hand, the use of anonymous terror attacks and, on the other, the manipulation of autonomy movements by local Slavic populations.

The possibility of the change is raised by a new pattern of bomb attacks in the republics. Previously, ineffectual bombs were placed at Soviet targets. Neutral observers believed they were planted by members of the Soviet security forces, intending to discredit Balts, raise tension, and provide an excuse for possible military action.

Recently, bombs have exploded at Baltic targets. In Tallinn, the Estonian capital, the headquarters of the National Defence Force was wrecked and an official was injured. In Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, a national monument was destroyed and a bus depot was damaged. Tension was also raised by the murder in Latvia two weeks ago of a former officer of the Soviet Black Berets, who left in protest at their actions in January.

Other recent developments are formal demands for autonomy for the Polish areas of Lithuania and the Russian-populated region of northeast

Estonia, which the republic's governments, particularly their radical wings, are determined to reject. In both cases, the demands for "special status" are being organised by local Communist party leaders.

The communist mayors of the three main towns in the Narva area of northeast Estonia met this week and told Tallinn that its actions risk "causing an open reaction by the population of the north-east" and that more and more people were coming round to the idea of creating a Narva Soviet republic and joining the Russian Federation, "a move which would make the present difficulties even harder to overcome".

The mayors, backed by a majority on their councils, proposed instead a "special status" for northeast Estonia, including a proviso that the Estonian budget should be created by the councils. This area would employ Estonian law, keeping in mind the special character of the region. Vladimir Malkovsky, the local Communist party leader, said that these problems would have to be solved, "or we could see a Yugoslav situation developing here".

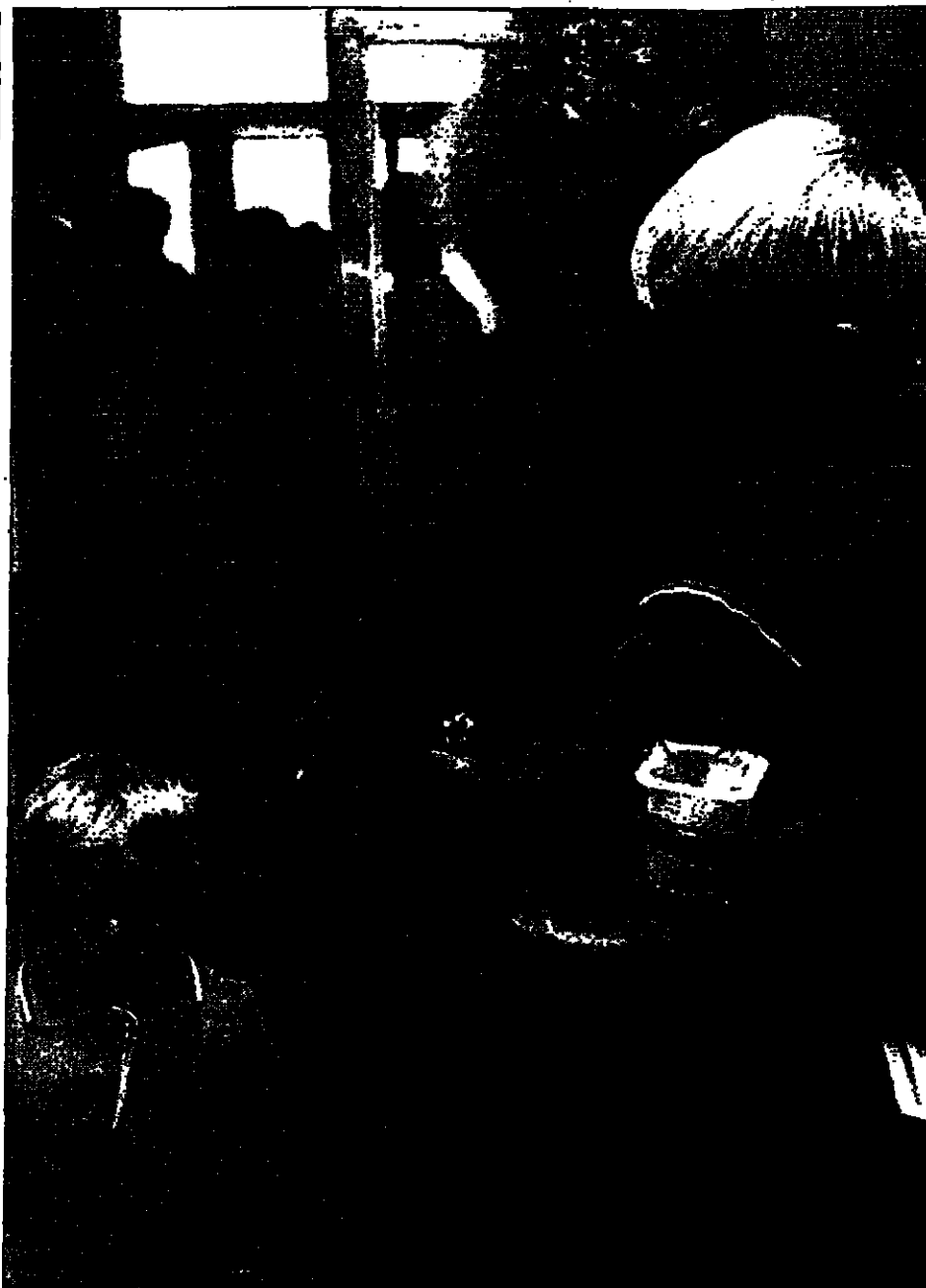
The move follows the expulsion last week of Estonian border guards from the region by the local authorities. This almost led to a violent

clash between the Estonian guards and local Russian "workers' detachments" organised by the Communists. The expulsion followed the decision of the Estonian parliament to reject a proposal by Tallinn to make Narva a free trade zone. Radical nationalists accused the government of "betraying Estonia" by its plan.

But local people denounced price rises by the Estonian government, emphasised the need for the region's "economic autonomy", and expressed disappointment that the Estonian parliament had not agreed to the free trade zone plan. Artur Kuznetsov, the Estonian minister for ethnic relations, said that the proposal remained on the government agenda.

In an interview, Dr Kuznetsov attacked the local Communists for creating conflict, but also criticised Estonian attitudes towards the Russians, especially concerning the future citizenship of an independent Estonia. He said that these attitudes risked leading to a situation where, in an independent Estonia, the majority of the population of Narva would remain Soviet, not Estonian, citizens. He called for dual citizenship as an interim measure, but said the idea was not popular.

Mary Dejevsky, page 14



Testing time: an ethnic Czech mother taking her children for examination in a Prague hospital yesterday. They had been living near the contaminated Chernobyl nuclear plant but Soviet authorities have allowed such families to leave for Czechoslovakia

Moscow backs UN-led talks on Cyprus rift

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

CONSTANTINE Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, said here this week that it should be possible to find a solution to the Cyprus issue under which the Turkish-Cypriot zone would be returned to cover just over a quarter of the island.

Mr Mitsotakis, who was welcomed at the Kremlin this week with a warmth disproportionate to his country's size, says he won support from President Gorbachev for the idea of an international conference on Cyprus, involving the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. But he made it clear that he was not unduly disappointed by the stated preference of President Bush, who visited Greece and Turkey last week, for the Turkish proposal of a meeting involving Athens, Ankara and the two Cypriot communities.

While the four-party idea is unacceptable to the Greeks, because it would equate the internationally recognized Cypriot government with the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state, President Mitsotakis said the precise make-up of a conference should remain open for now.

President Bush, making the first visit to the Aegean by an American president for 32 years, put his personal weight behind the search for a solution to the Cyprus problem, which has long poisoned relations between Turkey and Greece, two Nato members. Turkey's 1974 invasion, which followed an abortive Greek-backed coup in Nicosia, left its troops in control of 37 per cent of Cyprus. The Turkish-Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktas, has indicated he would make some territorial concessions as part of a settlement returning the island as a bi-zonal federation.

In a reference to the possible size of the Turkish-Cypriot zone, Mr Mitsotakis said: "The starting point for the Greeks is 25 per cent, and for the Turks I think it is 29 per cent. Somewhere in the middle it is probably possible to find a solution, at least on paper." He emphasised that the Greek Cypriots, in Athens, must have the last word on the territorial issues.

Asked about reports of American pressure on Ankara to make territorial concessions, he replied: "The American side is doing what it can to reduce the distance between the two sides with respect to all the issues - and territory is one of the most important issues."

Mr Mitsotakis also conveyed to the Kremlin his acute concern over the possible break-up of Yugoslavia, through which nearly half Greece's exports have to pass. Solemn Soviet-Greek statements pledging respect for existing borders have reflected not just diplomatic platitudes but Greek concern over how

the republic of Macedonia - long at odds with Athens - will behave if Yugoslavia disintegrates.

In a semi-jocular exchange, President Gorbachev asked his visitors: "How would it be if Greece claimed Alexander of Macedonia's territories?" The Greek foreign minister, Antonis Samaras, retorted: "In Yugoslavia, there is already a republic that claims Alexander the Great's heritage."

Athens has always insisted that the word "Macedonian" refers properly to part of the Greek nation. It rejects suggestions made in southern Yugoslavia that an oppressed Macedonian Slav minority lives inside Greece.

EC may send team to Croatia

FROM REUTERS IN AMSTERDAM

EUROPEAN Community officials met yesterday to discuss the increasing turmoil in Yugoslavia and a possible deployment of EC observers to monitor ethnic violence in Croatia, the Dutch foreign ministry said.

"The results of this meeting today are in preparation for a possible political decision at ministerial level on extending the mandate of the EC monitoring mission in Yugoslavia," the ministry said. Issues raised at yesterday's meeting in The Hague would probably be discussed by the 12 EC foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday.

The German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, urged the EC to deploy its ceasefire observers in Yugoslavia in the breakaway republic of Croatia, where at least 36 people have died in clashes between Croats and Serbs since Friday. The EC monitoring mission of 50 unarmed civilian observers has a mandate to operate in Croatia, but not to monitor fighting.

Belgrade: Fighting flared between Croats and Serbs yesterday with four policemen badly wounded in clashes near the volatile Knin region in Croatia. The police were hit by automatic weapons fire when Serbian gunmen ambushed their car in the village of Plastovo in southwest Croatia.

Fighting between Serbs and Croats was also reported around Slunj in central Croatia, where at least 30 mortar bombs were fired at a police station and in the area around Vinkovci in eastern Croatia where mortar rounds hit three houses. Other attacks with automatic weapons and mortars were reported around Croatia during the night, but no casualty figures were given.

Ailing health care prompts strike

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

NURSES from Berlin's best known hospital, the Charité, staged a strike yesterday in protest at the worsening state of the health service in eastern Germany and the low wages which have provoked a drain of staff to the west.

About 750 nurses and sisters, more than half the total employed at the hospital, marched through the city, claiming that a new pay deal, awarding them 60 per cent of the salary of their western colleagues, was not enough to prevent a collapse of services in eastern German hospitals. The strike, which ended in the afternoon, was supported by the Charité's doctors and administration.

One in five nurses in east Berlin has decided to seek work in the west, leaving hospitals in the eastern part short of staff. While the plight of the Charité - formerly the flagship of the East German health care system - has made national headlines, less well-known hospitals, particularly those near to the old inner-German border, are suffering an equally acute plight with operating theatres and intensive care units particularly affected.

While a newly qualified nurse in the west earns DM2,700 (about £930) a month, her eastern colleague receives a mere DM1,200 regardless of experience or qualifica-

tions. A ward sister earns DM4,700 in the west and DM2,700 in the east.

"I have been working for 15 years with special qualifications in intensive care," said Karin Koch, a sister on strike yesterday. "I earn the same as a nurse straight out of training school in the west. How can the government talk of a unified Germany?" The nurses' anger was exacerbated when a rise of only 10 per cent was forced on eastern personnel at the start of this month.

A Hannover hospital was this week offering a DM10,000 premium and double their current salary to eastern nurses prepared to go west to work in exchange for a five-year contract. Further offers have been pouring in from health authorities throughout the west and Austria, which also has a shortage of nurses.

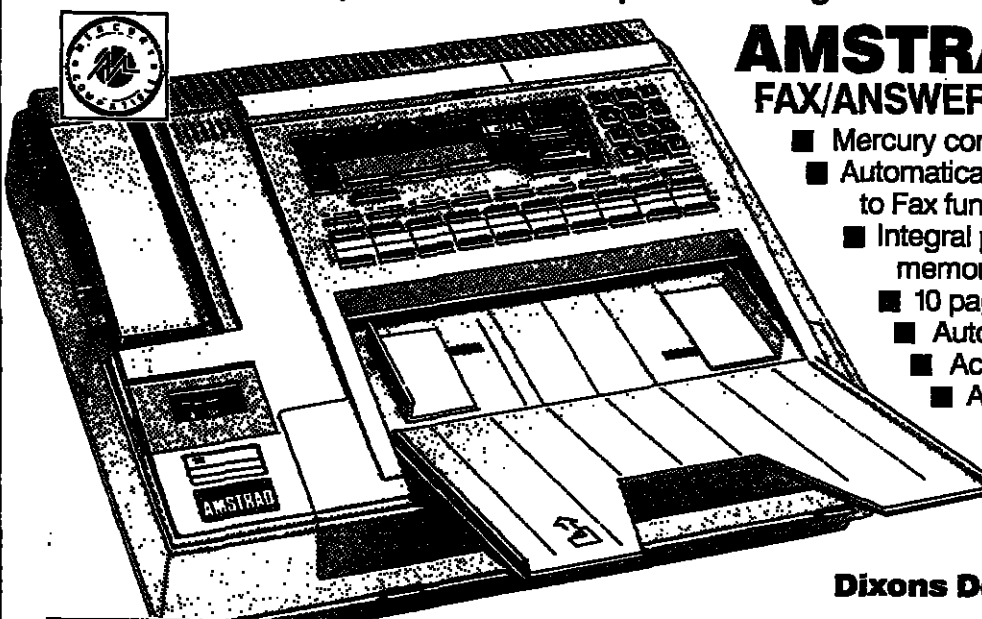
But the federal health minister, Gerda Hasselhoff, has condemned the attempts to woo staff from the east. "This drain is a scandal," she said. "We clearly need socially viable pay deals if we are to solve the problem."

However, the federal government is anxious to keep down pay agreements in the eastern public sector to curb inflation. A more generous deal for hospital staff would spark off similar demands from other local authority workers still receiving only half of the average western wage.

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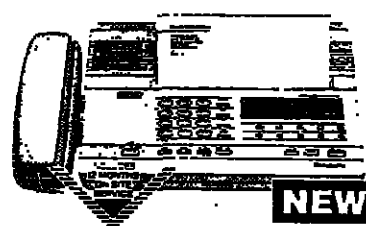
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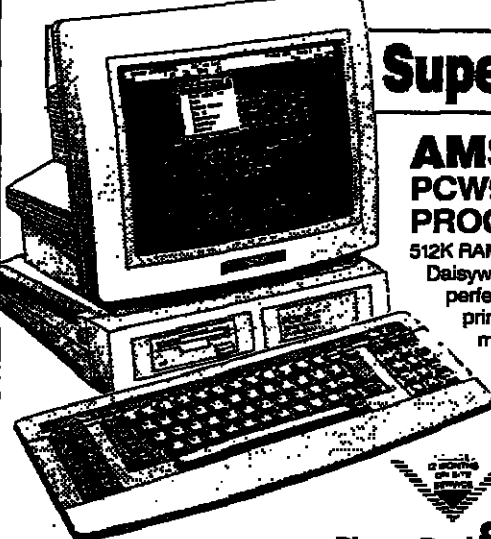
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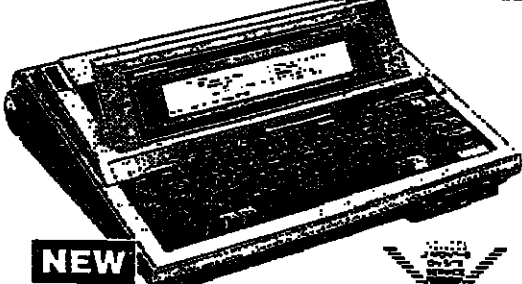


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Iraqis fear long arm of Saddam's secret police in Jordan



Saddam lifted travel restrictions in May

ACCORDING to the hapless Iraqis huddled outside the United Nations refugee registration centre in Jordan, Baghdad's secret police have rented an adjacent flat and are recording all those hoping to live anywhere out of the reach of President Saddam Hussein.

"Bush made a big mistake when he did not terminate the monster," said an Iraqi Baptist, Christian who called himself John. "We will not go back to Iraq until people understand human rights. And at the moment, I don't hold much hope."

Jordan is not quite Iraq's 19th province, but many of the more than 50,000 Iraqis estimated to be staying in Amman still feel they are living under Saddam's grip. All have arrived since Saddam lifted restrictions on May 15 that had prevented his

Adam Kelliher in Amman talks to refugees from Iraq who have arrived with best suits for visa interviews and the paranoia nurtured in years under totalitarian rule

subjects from travelling abroad for the best part of a decade. They came despite knowing that Jordan could be a dead end because visas for other nations are nearly impossible to get.

Some came to Jordan merely to find telephones, fresh food, running water and electricity away from Iraq's scorching summer. In the past week, many have poured in to escape possible renewed allied bombing. But most are on a desperate search for residency in any country where they can escape the fateful decisions of their leader and a likely future in Iraq of political

and economic chaos. Along with their best suit for visa interviews and wads of near-worthless Iraqi dinars, the refugees have brought the acute paranoia nurtured after years under totalitarian rule.

The mannerisms of Baghdad remain. Before speaking, eyes rapidly flit left and right to judge who may also be listening. In mixed company, difficult questions are met with an opaque chuckle to indicate no comment. To tell you to shut up, an Iraqi will give a solemn knowing look and cross his wrists to gesture being shackled and led away. The Iraqi embassy in Jordan has

assumed greater diplomatic functions with the severance of communication links to Baghdad and the closure of missions in many allied capitals, but exactly why Saddam would bother to dispatch agents to monitor refugees when he has opened the border remains debatable.

Although the occupants of the three-storey block of flats opposite the UN office said it was in the hands of long-time Jordanian tenants, the hundreds of Iraqis trying to register as refugees are convinced that Saddam's secret police are up there, using their surveillance paraphernalia just as if they were at home. "They are watching us," whispered an Iraqi Kurd, who sold his house and took his family to Jordan in an all-out gamble. "We run the risk of rejection. Anyone who registers here will be seen as a

criminal, and if we go back to Iraq the police will take us away."

The real threat is the dearth of options for holders of an Iraqi passport, which is probably the world's least fashionable travel document. Tunisia, Algeria, Romania and Poland are among the few nations that give easy access, but these are not coveted destinations.

The British embassy has had to fly in extra staff to process a flood of visa applications that have resulted in a nine-month wait to get even the appointment for consular officials to assess eligibility. American officials send all documentation on Iraqis to Washington and processing takes about 25 days. Canadian, Australian and European missions have been similarly swamped.

This means Iraqis must spend months in cheap hotels, surviving

on meagre funds because their currency is in free fall and they can only take out \$320 (£194) in hard currency. Some are already sleeping in city parks.

Although one man showed me an official Iraqi notice informing him that some family members had been executed, many have asked for political asylum but have no means to prove persecution. "A lot of people drifting in our direction would not be numbers one to ten in the Saddam Hussein fan club," said a British official. "They are mostly middle-class and apolitical."

● Baghdad: Iraq has accused Kuwait of deporting this month 1,600 Iraqis and nationals of other Arab countries which sided with Baghdad in the Gulf crisis. The Iraqi news agency said they arrived from Kuwait on Tuesday in Basra. (Reuters)

Baghdad stands by for US attack as deadline expires

FROM NICHOLAS PRYTHIAN IN BAGHDAD

IRAQIS are anxious, security is even tighter than normal, and everyone from senior government officials to waiters is asking: "What do you think is going to happen?"

Their anxiety is over what may transpire tomorrow when the United Nations deadline for full disclosure of the country's nuclear and other military secrets — reinforced by an American threat of a military strike — is reached at 5am London time. "We are worried because of what happened last time," one university graduate from Baghdad said, remembering the January 15 deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait and the Gulf war that followed.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China — set tomorrow's deadline after UN inspectors discovered that Iraq was trying to hide evidence of a uranium enrichment programme. But diplomats at the UN headquarters in New York are hinging that tomorrow is more of a target date for progress than a deadline and suggest further steps are unlikely until they assess what Baghdad has done to lay bare its nuclear secrets.

Hans Blix, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, is expected to brief the press today on the outcome of a visit by a team of UN nuclear inspectors that left Baghdad last Friday. Meanwhile, another team of UN inspectors plans to set out for Iraq today. A spokesman for the agency said the 20-strong team, led by David Kay, an American expert at the agency, would leave from its headquarters in Vienna and from other capitals to assemble in Bahrain before moving on to Baghdad. They plan to spend two weeks there on the fourth such mission since May.

"The team has a dual purpose," the spokesman said. "One purpose is to search for more [evidence of nuclear programmes] and the other is to evaluate and assess what to do about facilities that have already been inspected."

Memories of the speed with which America and its Gulf

war allies unleashed their air and missile power in January fuelled a buying spree in the markets of Baghdad last week. Iraqis with money have stocked up on rice, beans and other staples. Residents report shortages of cooking gas and paraffin. Some have stockpiled petrol at their homes, others have made arrangements to move their families to relatives or friends outside the capital. Some embassies have contingency evacuation plans.

Diplomats say many of those people taking advantage of a lifting of a travel ban in May have brought forward their departure dates to coincide with the deadline. "Some say they are worried about bombing, some are worried about radiation [from attacks on Iraqi nuclear facilities], some that the situation will develop itself into a kind of internal anarchy," one diplomat said. "Lastly, some are really worried that the borders might be closed by orders of the government."

Most Iraqis, squeezed by the year-long UN trade blockade which has sent food prices soaring and depleted their savings, have little choice but to stay and hope for the best.

Little is known of what President Saddam Hussein and his inner circle think about prospects of an attack. Saddam Hammadi, the prime minister, said that Iraq viewed an attack as "probable" and the government has urged the security council and the Arab League to block any renewed American aggression.

The state-run press, radio and television have accused Washington of plotting to destroy Iraq and topple Saddam after failing to do so in the Gulf war. On Monday, state television ran a slogan over pictures of a firework display saying that Iraq, loyal to Saddam, would resist any American aggression.

Public buildings in Baghdad, which bristled with anti-aircraft guns in January, display token defences, many of which have been in place since February. Security at some sensitive sites has been increased. However, the defences are of a kind that would be more effective against internal upheaval than an attack. "There are some preparations in some sensitive places, machineguns and soldiers on the roofs, and some new checkpoints," one diplomat said. (Reuters)



Gun law: Carol Hallett, US Customs Service commissioner, announcing charges yesterday against Roger Crammen, president of a Virginia firm, who allegedly supplied this 12-bore semi-automatic shotgun and other equipment illegally to Jordan

Britain poised to offer £5m grant for Egypt

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE British government is today expected to announce a £5 million technical assistance grant for Egypt to help President Mubarak's privatisation programme.

The grant will probably be announced during the ceremony when Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Amr Moussa, his Egyptian opposite number, sign a new protocol on writing off \$550 million (£327 million) worth of Egyptian debts to Britain and the conversion of a £7 million loan to a grant.

The ceremony follows President Mubarak's talks in Downing Street yesterday which focused largely on economic issues, especially the recent G7 summit and the meeting between President Gorbachev and the seven leaders in London. The Egyptian president has expressed strong interest in similar Western support for his wide-ranging programme to dismantle state control in key industries.

Mr Mubarak also discussed with John Major the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. He urged Israel to show more flexibility and give a positive response to the American proposals put to Israel earlier this week by James Baker, the US Secretary of State. Both

men voiced their governments' strong support for the American initiatives.

"I am by nature optimistic," Mr Mubarak said afterwards, but in references to the Israeli and Syrian leaders he added: "I pray to God that Mr Shamir will respond positively to what Mr Baker told him as well as to Mr Assad." He regretted that Israel had rejected the proposed ending of the Arab economic boycott in return for an end to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

In a "warm and friendly atmosphere" he and Mr Major also exchanged views on Iraq and the allied determination to maintain sanctions as long as President Saddam Hussein remained in power. Afterwards he said of the Gulf situation: "We don't want it to get more complicated."

President Mubarak's visit is seen as recognition in Britain of the key role Egypt now plays both between the Arab world and Israel and the Arab world and Britain. In the ten years in which he has been in office he has managed, with quiet caution and skilful diplomacy, to bring Egypt out of the isolation that it suffered after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, and he has now mended fences with all his Arab neighbours.

MPs take Israel to task

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AN ALL-PARTY committee of MPs yesterday urged the British government to protest strongly to Israel about the ill-treatment of "a growing number of Palestinians" and called on the Americans to use economic pressure, including the refusal of new loan guarantees, to bring Israel to the conference table.

A report by the foreign affairs select committee on the Middle East after the Gulf war supports the Baker initiative on Arab-Israeli relations and the principle of "territory for peace", which is based on resolutions 242 and 338 of the United Nations Security Council, calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The committee's unanimous report criticises the "uncompromising message"

received from its consultations in Israel and with the Israeli ambassador, Yoav Biran. It says that while Israel remains determined to hold territory for "strategic depth", it seems unlikely that the gap between Israelis and Palestinians can be bridged.

The report, which says that the situation in the occupied territories is deteriorating and that instability threatens to spill over into Israel proper, complains of the denial of rights to Palestinians by Israel in the name of public order. The MPs were "deeply disturbed to hear first-hand accounts of the ill-treatment of detainees and the humiliating conditions under which they have been held". The MPs say that unless the demand for a Palestinian homeland consistent with Israel's security is

addressed, bitterness and tension will grow, making it less likely that a moderate solution will be achieved. If the American initiative fails, the European Community should mount another one, so that expectations aroused by the Gulf war do not result in the destabilisation of Lebanon and Jordan.

The select committee is also sharply critical of the Kuwaiti authorities, whose "hesitant way" of approaching the enforcement of human rights and accountable government "must cause the gravest concern".

The Middle East after the Gulf war (third report from the foreign affairs select committee 1990-1), House of Commons paper 143-1, HMSO, £15.80.

Leading article, page 15

ULAN BATOR NOTEBOOK by Catherine Sampson

Son of Genghis rides into town

Resplendent in satin robe, with an impressive girth and black beard, Ganjuurijn Dschero Khan proclaims: "I am a prince, the leader of the Mongolian people."

He claims to be the last descendant of Genghis Khan, forced to flee communist oppression into exile with his family when he was four. Now aged 63, he is back in the Mongolian capital for his first visit. "I have waited 58 years for this," he said. He described his welcome by the Mongolians as "perfect", but he is in fact regarded with a mixture of awe and suspicion.

The cult of Genghis Khan has flourished since Mongolia introduced a multi-party democracy last year. Nationalism has grown in the backlash of years of kowtowing to Moscow. However, intellectuals feel that, after Lenin and Stalin, Mongolia should avoid another personality cult.

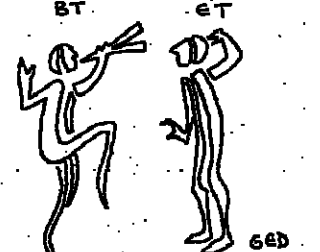
The prince unashamedly cultivates the family tradition of man of war. He attended one government function recently wearing rows of medals on his chest,

inscribed with the words, "carbine", "bazooka", "paratrooper", and "special forces". They were, he said, won for heroism in the Vietnam and Korean wars. Rumours about him have spread through Ulan Bator. "There are many people abroad who claim to be descendants of Genghis Khan, how can we tell?" said one Mongolian. Yet, he is staying in the state guest house, and has been retained as a trade consultant by the Mongolian government. The fact that he cannot speak Mongolian does not endear him to the people of his homeland, despite his adoption of traditional Mongolian dress and a regal bearing. He has told people, however, that when he sees the sheep wandering across the steppe, memories of his early years flood back.

The prince, who speaks English, said that when his parents fled they took him to The Netherlands, where he spent most of the intervening years, and where he has a palace. He claims to have amassed a fortune from business deals, and to

be an adviser to Interpol. He arrived in Ulan Bator with a small retinue, including his own cameraman. He intends to visit his own birthplace, and that of Genghis Khan. His German wife, however, is a little nervous about coping with the winter here, when temperatures can dip to -40F on a not particularly cold day.

BRITISH MONGOLIAN TELECOM TELEPATHIC BT

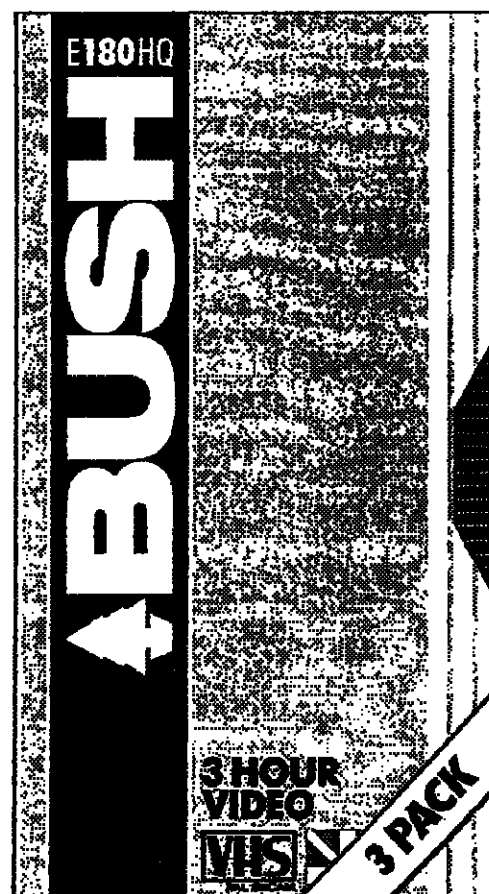


With Mongolia's new-found freedom of speech, all manner of things have come into the open, including alleged encounters with extraterrestrials. In the past year, nomads in the remotest areas of Mongolia's vast territory have often reported seeing visitors from

another planet who look like human beings but who speak no language, communicating only by telepathy. Until recently, newspapers reported the sightings, including one by a woman who was flown over the capital in a space ship. Vodka was ruled out as a cause of the visions since as many women were experiencing them as men. But people did think it strange that when two friends were walking, only one would claim to have seen the otherworldly visitor. Scientific queries soon disproved the sightings.

The supernatural, however, has proved useful in some cases. One woman claimed she burst into flames every time she got angry. She complained that since she and her family lived in a yurt, a circular tent, she was in danger of setting her home alight whenever temper took over. The authorities moved her family into a flat and asked scientists to examine her. She was discovered to be a fraud. Her family, however, are still enjoying their new abode.

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WOOLWORTHS

De Klerk stalls for time in effort to weather Inkatha storm



De Klerk: turning a deaf ear to chorus of protests

PRESIDENT de Klerk's decision to stall for time in the covert funding scandal has infuriated his critics, but illustrated his resolve to weather the storm with an implacability fostered by decades of National party hegemony.

Effectively ignoring a chorus of demands for the dismissal of senior ministers, an emergency session of parliament, and a judicial inquiry, Mr de Klerk announced that he would not make a full statement on the affair until next Tuesday.

R.F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, is due to address a press conference today on his role in the secret funding of the Inkatha Freedom party, but South Africa will just have to hold its collective breath for a fuller account from the president next week.

A cabinet meeting yesterday, which followed a two-day government conclave at a secret location in the northern Transvaal, produced no further public statements. Mr de Klerk has scheduled a meeting on Monday

South Africa is holding its breath to hear the president's account of secret funding for rivals of the African National Congress, Gavin Bell reports from Johannesburg

with the state security council, which may signal a review of covert activities.

The president said last week that some actions were being continued in the "broad national interest". The current budget allocates £80 million to a secret services account for such projects.

The controversy over clandestine activities has deepened with the discovery of two electronic bugging devices in the Pretoria offices of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative (Idasa), an independent reform pressure group. Ivor Jenkins, the regional director, said he had other evidence, which he declined to specify, that state security agents were spying on the organisation. "If we are going to pursue

democracy together, we are going to need explanations for this kind of behaviour," he said.

Mr Botha has been drawn deeper into the scandal by a report in the weekly *Financial Mail* which identified Marc Burger, a former chief director of the foreign affairs department, as the man who controlled the "alush fund" from which Inkatha was paid. Mr Burger is presently South Africa's ambassador to Paris.

The foreign minister's convoluted attempt to justify an evident untruth over the funding — he stated categorically last month that Pretoria had never financed Inkatha — has placed him in the firing line of vituperous editorials. Accusing Mr Botha of a "breathtaking lie",

Business Day commented: "He has but one honourable course, and that is to resign."

Mr de Klerk's refusal to bow to such pressure so far drew a sharp rebuke from the Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who accused him of "playing games" with the country's future. "He has been given an opportunity to rehabilitate his integrity. He does not seem to realise the seriousness of our crisis. I call on him to act far more decisively and urgently."

An indication of political damage inflicted on the National party emerged from a poll by a local newspaper and a radio station which showed that more than half of its supporters believed Adriaan Vlok, the minister of law and order, should resign.

Some 63 per cent said the government should not have funded Inkatha, and 80 per cent were convinced that Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha president who has denied all knowledge of the funds, was aware where they

came from. The majority also believed that the police force was biased towards Inkatha.

The collective style of leadership introduced by Mr de Klerk implies that the law and order minister is no more responsible for covert funding than senior colleagues such as Barend du Plessis, the finance minister. If Mr Vlok is to be faulted, it is for his failure to control rogue elements in the police. On this issue, there is no more reason for him to resign than before. Rather, his apparent popularity in police ranks may be invaluable in inculcating political neutrality. He is in an unenviable, but not impossible, position.

He has survived repeated calls for his resignation over dubious police conduct in township violence over the past year, and there are indications that President de Klerk is not prepared to sacrifice him now.

Sympathetic Western governments, notably the Bush administration, are equally dismayed.

American diplomats admit privately they are embarrassed by the scandal emerging so soon after Washington lifted sanctions, and say it is now unlikely to remove restrictions on IMF loans for Pretoria.

"We need something which shows they understand they have a real credibility problem," a diplomat said. "Nothing they have done so far suggests they appreciate the scale of the problem. They don't seem to realise they are now being seen as an unreliable negotiating partner."

Meanwhile intelligence agents believe they have identified the "deep throat" who leaked incriminating security policy documents to South African and British newspapers. The suspect is said to be a policeman based in Durban, who has disappeared with secret files. It is understood the documents, with copies of bank accounts and receipts, were released in London last week.

Parliament, page 7

India rejects Soviet-style restrictions on economy

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

INDIA is to jettison the restrictive economic policies, patterned on the Soviet model, which have been the hallmark of the country over four decades, in a radical transformation announced in parliament yesterday.

Among the measures introduced is the abolition of licensing for the manufacture of most industrial goods and raising the limit for foreign equity holdings in Indian companies from 40 per cent to 51 per cent. Another far-reaching reform is the decision to allow the notoriously inefficient public sector, which controls a large share of the economy, from running hotels to retailing alcohol, manufacturing steel and marketing condoms, to sell off its non-profitable units to the private sector.

The minister of state for industries, P. J. Kurien, said the new policy is testimony to winds of change blowing through the country. "India is part of the world economy and cannot live in isolation... we have decided to unshackle the Indian economy from unnecessary bureaucratic shackles," he told parliament.

Ironically, "socialism" has been the mantra of the Congress (I) party of the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, since the time of the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who was an enthusiastic advocate of a planned economy. But the government has little option since India desperately needs a loan of \$5 billion (£3 billion) to \$7 billion from the International Monetary Fund to tide it over its present economic crisis with foreign exchange reserves down to 25 billion rupees

(£580 million) last month and a trade deficit of nearly 110 billion rupees. This month the government devalued the rupee by around 22 per cent.

Another controversial measure was the pledging of 47 tonnes of gold to the Bank of England for a loan. The liberalisation and reforms in the economy have aroused criticism not just in the opposition communist parties, which claim that the World Bank and the IMF have been arm twisting the Indian government, but even in a section of Mr Rao's own party upset by the radical change in its traditional ideological stance. Mr Rao's minority government will have to tread carefully in the next few months as it depends for its survival on the reluctance of the opposition parties to bring the government down for fear of another election.

Yesterday's budget with high taxation on most items ranging from sugar to food, fuel and fertiliser is likely to increase inflation which is already at the double digit level. Presenting the budget yesterday, the finance minister, Manmohan Singh, said the government had inherited an economy in deep crisis.

The new budget calls for cuts in subsidies on food and fertilisers, greater incentives for imports and exports, disinvestment by the government of up to 20 per cent equity in the public sector and liberalisation of rules for foreign investment with special incentives provided for non-resident Indians settled abroad. There is no cut in defence expenditure which is put at 163.5 billion rupees for the coming financial year.

Suspect is held over human abattoir

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

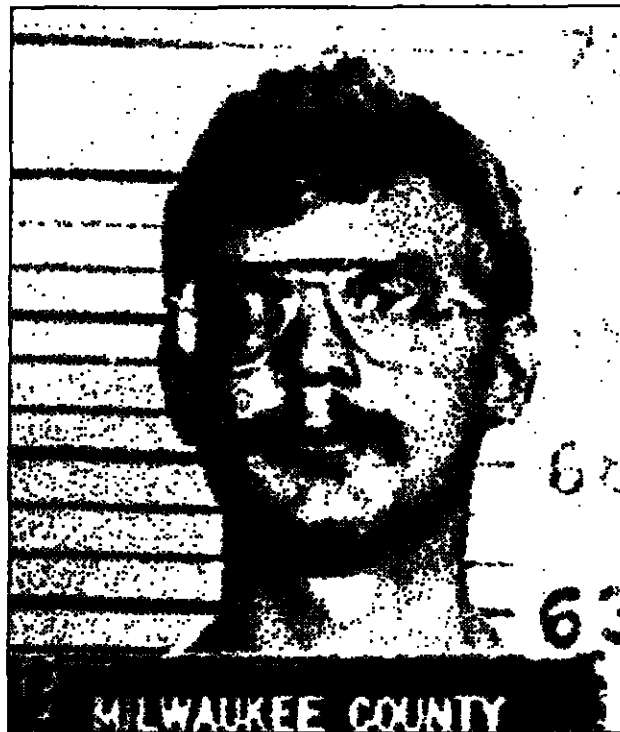
FOR almost a year, neighbours in the run-down Milwaukee tenement block had complained of the stench emanating from apartment 214. Sometimes, they heard scuffling, screams and what sounded like an electric saw in the middle of the night.

The occupant, a chocolate factory worker, tried to deflect their questions by explaining that his refrigerator had broken and that the meat inside had gone rotten. The building manager let things be. Although a loner, his tenant "never caused any problems. He worked every day. He always paid his rent on time."

That uneasy routine was shattered late on Monday night when a teenager in handcuffs, running for his life, flagged down a police car. The man said he had met the tenant, Jeffrey Dahmer, in a bar near by and had been invited back to his apartment for a drink. Once there, he claimed, Dahmer suddenly handcuffed him and set about him with a butcher's knife.

On entering the fly-infested flat, the police found a scene more nauseating than anything in last year's hit horror movie, *Silence of the Lambs*. Just like the film's serial killer protagonist Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter, the occupant seemed to have dismembered human corpses and even eaten them. Old timers were reminded of the infamous local murder on which the film was based, Ed Gein's reign of terror in rural Wisconsin more than 30 years ago in which he killed 15 farm girls and used their body parts to make lampshades and jewellery.

The refrigerator that was supposed to have broken contained three severed human heads. Skulls and headless torsos in boxes and plastic rubbish bags littered the floor. At one side stood a steel barrel



Horror suspect: file photographs of Jeffrey Dahmer, arrested after the discovery of many dismembered bodies

full of acid and bones and the dresser overflowed with drawings and snapshots of mutilated bodies and homosexual encounters. A video camera was mounted on the wall. "You think you have seen it all out here, and then something like this happens," said patrolman Rolf Mueller, one of the first policemen to enter the flat. In all, there were remains of 11 corpses.

Dahmer, 31, was arrested, but not immediately charged. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* quoted a source as saying he had confessed to murdering 11 men and eating some of them. Police said yesterday they were investigating the possibility that other people were involved and that body parts might be located at other sites.

Dahmer, originally from Medina, Ohio, had been in Milwaukee for several years, working at the Ambrosia Chocolate Factory near by. He was reported to police in 1982 for indecent exposure at the Wisconsin State Fair. He also has a conviction for sexual assault after offering a 13-year-old boy \$50 (£29) to pose for nude photos in 1988. He was released on probation from jail last year.



Macabre find: a policeman photographs bones found behind a Milwaukee block of flats

Opposition occupies island ministries

Antananarivo — Madagascar's opposition occupied two government ministries in a symbolic show of strength yesterday, meeting no resistance from security forces.

Witnesses said the security officers outside the transport and public works ministries seemed to be defying orders by President Ratsiraka to halt anti-government protests that have plunged the Indian Ocean island into turmoil.

Mr Ratsiraka declared a state of emergency in the capital on Tuesday in an effort to stem a rising tide of opposition to his 16-year rule and ordered a security clamp-down. However, witnesses said only the radio station was heavily guarded yesterday.

Opposition leaders, who stayed in the ministries for more than three hours, then invited civil servants to hold private talks.

A test of government and opposition willingness to negotiate a settlement might come today when they are due to hold talks on a conference to rewrite the 1975 revolutionary socialist constitution. France, Madagascar's former colonial power, yesterday backed opposition calls for early elections. The foreign ministry said that holding polls was the only way to clarify the political situation.

Cambodia relief

Poipet, Cambodia — The United Nations sent its first road convoy of relief supplies in more than 15 years from Thailand to the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. But unless new funds are approved, the more than seven tonnes of medicines could be the last shipment. (Reuter)

Monarchy poll

Sydney — Most Australians want to keep the monarchy despite the ruling Labor party's move to establish a republic by 2001, an opinion poll showed. Fifty-six per cent of more than 1,200 people polled by Morgan Gallup wanted to retain the Queen as head of state, while 36 per cent preferred a republic. (Reuter)

Convictions stay

Manila — The Philippines supreme court upheld the conviction of 16 soldiers for the assassination in 1986 of President Aquino's husband, Benigno. The ruling confirmed a trial court's decision last September sentencing the late air force general, Luther Lapidario, and 15 others to life imprisonment. (Reuter)

Aids drug goes

Paris — A French pharmaceutical company, Institut Merieux, is withdrawing the controversial Aids treatment Imunithiol after unfavourable tests. A senior executive said that the latest study of patients treated with Imunithiol showed no benefits, but there were no harmful effects either. (Reuter)

Burma talks

Kuala Lumpur — Raul Manglapus, the Philippines foreign secretary, will visit Burma for direct talks amid rising international concern at the ruling junta's refusal to transfer power to an elected government. The junta is accused of widespread human rights abuses and jailing opposition leaders. (Reuter)

Meal ticket

Wellington — A hotel here is offering diners a 25 per cent discount off the price for their weekend brunch if they wash their own dishes. After finishing their \$NZ20 (£6.70) meal at the James Cook hotel, guests can indicate they want to wash up by waving a flag or tea towel. The guests will then be led to the dishwasher. (AP)

Mobutu urged to quit by rival who spurned power

FROM KIN-KIEY MULUMBA IN KINSHASA

ZAIRE'S opposition leader, Etienne Tshisekedi told President Mobutu to give up power yesterday after spurning the post of prime minister.

Mr Tshisekedi, formally rejected the prime minister's job on Tuesday after angry supporters threatened to burn down his house if he did a deal with "Satan", the latest epithet for the president, who is aged 60. "I took account of the people's opinion that Mobutu's departure is an absolute necessity," he said. He denied strong suspicions that he had secretly agreed to become President Mobutu's third prime minister in 15 months but later changed his mind or double-crossed the president.

He said he was not consulted before Monday's dramatic radio broadcast by President Mobutu announcing that Mr Tshisekedi would take over as prime minister from Mulumba Lukoji, who had resigned. Zaire was technically without a government yesterday and plunged into the gravest political situation of President Mobutu's 26 years in power. The economy is in a shambles with rocketing inflation and food riots by Kinshasa's three million population.

A senior presidential aide said President Mobutu would call an emergency session of the one-party parliament and was ready to declare a state of emergency in the vast min-



Mobutu: has lost his iron grip on the country

eral-rich country at the heart of Africa. "A state of emergency will allow us to stop the acute deterioration of the economic situation and to prepare for elections," the aide said.

President Mobutu has steadily lost his iron grip on Zaire since he was forced to accept a multi-party system in April 1990. More than a hundred opposition groups, joined in a "sacred union", have rejected the president's limited political reforms and are demanding a pro-democracy conference with total authority.

Mr Tshisekedi, aged 58, is one of four co-chairmen of the powerful Union for Democracy and Social Progress and has been the president's toughest adversary since 1980. The party is a key component of the "sacred union" which

pledged on July 18 to boycott a national conference called by the president for July 31.

Diplomatic sources said the American and French ambassadors in Kinshasa played central roles in persuading President Mobutu to make peace overtures to Mr Tshisekedi. "The inflexibility of each side's position is damaging to Zaire," the French ambassador, André Retiere, said after talks on board the luxury presidential yacht on Monday.

Diplomats said Mr Tshisekedi may have decided at first to accept the post of prime minister on the grounds that if President Mobutu was forced to flee Zaire his generals might seize power in a coup. "The offer showed how desperate Mobutu's position has become and Tshisekedi is the first politician to say 'no' to the president," one analyst noted.

If Mr Tshisekedi was contemplating accepting President Mobutu's offer, the fury of his own party's supporters certainly dissuaded him. Shouting "Toboyi, Toboyi" (We don't want it), the crowd threatened to burn his house in the Limete suburb of Kinshasa if he betrayed them.

"For years Etienne has told us Mobutu was the Satan. We would be destroyed if he took an oath of allegiance as Satan's prime minister," one angry man said. (Reuter)

Brazilian Indians turn to suicide

FROM MICHAEL KEPP IN RIO DE JANEIRO

ANOTHER member of the Guarani-kaiowa Indian tribe of western Mato Grosso do Sul state in Brazil killed himself at the weekend, bringing the tribe's suicide toll to eight this year. The federal Indian agency is now investigating the cause of 80 suicides since 1989.

Suicide, while common among white Brazilians, is virtually unheard of among the nation's Indians. So when the agency announced this year that there had been several dozen Guarani-kaiowa suicides, President Collor de Mello ordered the investigation. The indigenous missionary council, a church-linked Indian rights group, said that the number of deaths was even higher — 75 to 80 Guarani-kaiowa suicides since 1989, and several other attempts.

Most of the suicides, six of the eight which occurred this year, were the result of Guarani-kaiowa hanging themselves from trees on the reservation. Virtually all those who killed themselves were aged 14 to 23.

Preliminary agency evidence shows that the suicides are the result of an increasingly crowded reservation and the disintegration of the family, causing young people to grow disconsolate. The crowding has been caused by white farmers and ranchers encroaching on Indian land outside the reservation, forcing more Indians into the already

packed reservations. There are 6,500 Guarani-kaiowa on the 7,500-acre reservation, giving each Indian less than an acre of land — not enough to grow crops. Unable to feed themselves, young tribesmen try to find seasonal jobs cutting sugar cane on nearby farms, and often turn to drink.

Young women and girls, who often marry at the age of 12, find temporary jobs as maids in the nearby town of Dourados, about a mile from the reservation. When the young men return, they find the girls have left or are living with other members of the tribe.

Antonio Brand, the executive director of the missionary council, said: "The Guarani-kaiowa see no future, they have no place to expand, and the outside world is a hostile one. So they sink into a kind of cultural despair, sometimes fuelled by alcohol."

Indian elders have blamed the suicides on sorcerers and have performed rituals to banish them, but a growing loss of identity conspires against them. Only a fifth of the tribe still practise the ritual and there are no *payis* (traditional healers) to conduct it. The agency has brought in a *payis* from another Guarani-kaiowa tribe in Paraguay, bordering Mato Grosso do Sul, to rid the reservation of evil spirits. The agency has also asked the government to double the size of the reserve to curb the suicide rate.

Senate fails to slow China trade

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINA appears once again to have survived the threatened removal of its valuable preferential trading status with America, despite Peking's continued excesses in the fields of human rights and weapons proliferation.

The US Senate voted 55 to 44 on Tuesday night to attach stringent conditions to the renewal of China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status, but fell 12 votes short of the two-thirds majority necessary to override President Bush's promised veto.

Peking and yesterday that the proposed conditions were "unacceptable". A foreign ministry spokesman said that the bill was "an interference in China's internal affairs".

The legislation would require that President Bush make certain China had met conditions on human rights, trade policy, missile exports and other issues before MFN status could be extended when it comes up for renewal a year from now. It is unlikely, however, that China will have to face up to these conditions. The bill is similar to one passed by the House of Representatives earlier this month, and Congress is now due to submit a combined version of the bills to the president.

The outcome diminishes the prospect of an open breach between Washington and Peking. It was a victory for President Bush, who had argued that China was too big

and important a country to isolate. It was a blow to the standing of George Mitchell, the Senate's Democratic leader who sponsored the bill, though he did prod Mr Bush into limited concessions.

The narrow margin of the Senate vote is likely to ease concerns in Hong Kong, where most businessmen fear that the withdrawal of MFN status or attaching conditions to its renewal would deal a severe blow to the economy of Hong Kong, which handles much of China's trade with America. China has already made clear that it will refuse to accept any conditions attached to MFN status. China would lose up to \$10 billion (£5.8 billion) in trade if the preference is withdrawn.

The Mitchell resolution would leave China's MFN status untouched this year, but terminate it next July unless Mr Bush was able to certify that Peking had taken a number of radical steps including the release of all political prisoners, halting the exports of goods made in labour camps, abiding by international non-proliferation agreements and ending unfair trade practices.

The House passed a similar bill by 313 votes to 112 two weeks ago, but from the outset the administration, backed by US grain exporters and other business interests, had concentrated its lobbying efforts on the Senate.

A holiday is frequently what the doctor orders, but many refuse to obey. Victoria McKee reports



Good health to a tee: few people dispute the therapeutic effects of a holiday, but workaholics may need to start with no more than a week's break

Working up to a break

Ninety-five per cent of GPs have at some time suggested that patients take a holiday as an alternative to medication for stress, a survey in *Doctor* magazine reported this month — and 83 per cent had prescribed themselves a holiday as an antidote to stress.

The survey was funded by the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) so should perhaps be taken with a grain of salt. But there is a growing emphasis on the importance of the pursuit of leisure because of its impact on health.

This month an industrial tribunal backed a computer analyst who claimed wrongful dismissal after turning up to play in his company's annual golf tournament while on sick leave. The man had a doctor's note and had been advised to play golf because it was relaxing. The tribunal considered turning up at the company event in the circumstances "an act of folly", but did not dispute the therapeutic qualities of the game.

Last year Abta joined forces with the magazine *Personnel Today* for a survey which revealed that fewer than 25 per cent of all British managerial staff routinely take their full holiday entitlement, and that 90 per cent of personnel managers think regular breaks "help to reduce stress-related absenteeism". The magazine's editor suggested that "there might well be a case for making the take-up mandatory".

That sentiment has spread.

"Our employees are actively encouraged to take up their full five weeks' holiday entitlement," an ICI press officer says, "because we don't want people who are exhausted and unable to work at their best." IBM, which echoes this assertion, has eliminated the option of "banking" holidays instead of taking them.

Dr Anne Fingert, the chief medical officer to the BBC, says she thinks there is "definitely something wrong with someone who doesn't take their full holiday entitlement. For one thing it means they're not organised. It also probably means they're under strain."

The only occasion on which she felt it was valid for BBC employees to curtail their holidays was during the Gulf war. "The American anchorman Dan Rather, who was on holiday in France when the Gulf war broke, immediately abandoned his break to begin reporting it 'rather than permitting a war to occur while he was off-duty', as Michael Kinsley observed in *Time* magazine."

Dr Fingert advises people to cut off completely while they are away. Others suggest that workaholics should wear themselves gradually into a holiday mood, clinging to their portable phone, if necessary.

"Workaholics can be more stressed if they're not allowed to keep in touch," says Lawrence Bamber, an occupational health consultant and a past president of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health.

The former junior health

minister, Edwina Currie — about to depart for France, where she has recently bought a holiday home ("thanks to the ERM making possible a cheap French mortgage") — takes her portable word processor away with her but says: "The Nineties are jolly nice because holidays are permitted at last. In the Eighties, under the previous prime minister, there was a feeling that holidays were what you went on when you had nothing else to do."

Parliament goes into recess

'Since it takes four days to unwind, a week's holiday is not very good'

for a record 13 and a half weeks from tomorrow. The health secretary, William Waldegrave, is taking ten days in the Scilly Isles with his family. Caroline Waldegrave, the president of Leith's School of Food and Wine, says: "William's brilliant at relaxing, although he works fantastically hard. There's no point in going away if you're not going to relax."

Mr Waldegrave's colleague Virginia Bottomley says she is convinced that holidays are essential but adds that, "regrettably", she does not switch off completely. While 56 per cent of those

questioned in the *Personnel Today* survey felt that shorter breaks at home could do as much good as longer trips abroad, Abta considers this "a perilous option for senior managers", since most personnel managers said senior staff on holiday in the UK were contactable by phone.

For some executives the sudden novelty of being incommunicado in Corfu can prove highly stressful, says Stephen Palmer, the director of the Stress Management Centre.

"To take a fortnight away from work could leave them feeling jittery," he says. "I usually advise short breaks at first — and try to get them to see the importance of regular holidays."

And what about the shock of "re-entry" into the working world? "Over three weeks away and 're-entry' can become quite a problem," Dr Fingert says. "But since it takes three to four days to unwind a week isn't very good. Going back to work after being on a holiday is a bit like trying to jump on to a moving train. It's a lot easier to do if you haven't slowed down to walking pace."

She, like most BBC executives, gets five weeks' holiday a year, which the US Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates is the average for Britain, as compared with just over two weeks (12 days) in the United States, six weeks in Germany and just over three weeks for the Japanese (plus national celebrations).

There is, the experts concede, no universally palatable

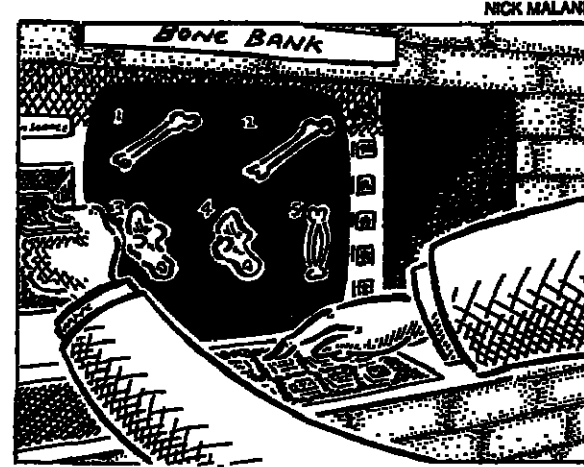
MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stafford

New bones for old

KENNETH McKee, the British surgeon who introduced hip replacement, died last week. The pioneer work of Mr McKee, the late Sir John Charnley, and Mr McKee's former senior registrar, Mr John Watson-Farrar, has enabled hundreds of thousands of people to lead an active old age, but even the best fitted artificial hip joint works loose in time and may need revision.

In some cases fitting a replacement joint into a worn thigh bone is difficult, or even impossible. When revision is needed, and the bone is very fatty, some surgeons are beginning to replace the patient's worn bone with a donated transplant, technically difficult but, when possible, most effective.

Britain's first bone bank has been opened at Glenfield Green hospital in Leicestershire. Hilary Stafford, the medical scientist in charge, says that the transplanted femur (thigh bone) is matched by x-rays for size, but that tissue typing as in organ transplants is not needed. Although the



donated bone is kept frozen the living cells are dead, but at operation it is fixed to the patient's own bone by the same techniques, with pins, screws, or plates, as are used in the surgical repair of a fracture. The joint heals like any other fracture, and the transplanted bone is progressively incorporated into the host's body. Eventually blood vessels will even grow into the transplant.

The main demand on the bone bank is for thigh bones for use in operations for the revision of hip joint replacement.

ments, and for bones to replace those which have had to be excised because of malignant growths. In some cases if a donated bone is available the amputation of a limb affected by cancer can be avoided, as it was when Hilary Stafford's own 21-year-old secretary, Helen Linnell, needed to have an osteosarcoma treated in her lower thigh.

The bone bank appeals for those people who carry donor cards to add bones to the list of parts they are prepared to donate.

The bald truth

SOMEWHAT tongue in cheek, bald Americans have determined to wrest the toupees off celebrities. Male pattern baldness (misnamed as women also suffer, but to a lesser extent and later) starts in two-thirds of people as receding hair. In the rest the hair is initially lost from the crown.

Only one preparation, Regaine (2 per cent minoxidil), has been shown scientifically to influence baldness. Recent evaluation of existing research has shown that Regaine is most successful when applied early, preferably when the first signs of thinning appear. Regular application causes a reasonably luxuriant regrowth in just over a third of patients; a third show some improvement; and in another third it fails.

Patience is needed; after four months only 8 per cent of patients have shown a good result, but after a year this has risen to 39 per cent. The manufacturer's spokesman was particularly honest,

admitting the prognosis is better if the baldness is not long established, and that for a person to apply it to an established bald, shiny head was displaying the same degree of optimism as a farmer would be if he poured fertiliser on to his concrete yard and hoped for a good crop of wheat. Regaine costs £30 a month. A doctor's private prescription is needed as it is not available on the NHS; indeed, two hair clinics have recently been heavily fined (£3,000 in one case) for providing a minoxidil-based hair restorer without prescription.



Bubbly tooth trouble

THE season is over, Ascot and Henley have passed, and Lord Cardigan has sipped the last of the champagne corks out of its bottle at the Royal Tournament, but Britain will continue to lead the world in champagne consumption, paying little heed to recent claims that it can induce toothache.

David Esler, a London dentist, is sceptical of the reports, but explains that

like any other ice-cold drink, champagne can excite nerves in ageing teeth exposed by gum recession, or where the metallic fillings have not been properly insulated with calcium hydroxide. Mr Esler also says that people who drink vast quantities of champagne, particularly if mixed with orange in a buck's fizz, might damage their tooth enamel, which is easily eroded by citrus fruits.

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Ring of no confidence?

British dentists have received revised guidelines on HIV infection



Old ways: the new code urges dentists to wear gloves

Anyone following the story of Kimberly Bergalis, a young American woman dying of Aids, may think they have a new reason to fear the dentist's chair. Miss Bergalis is one of five patients infected with HIV by the Florida dentist David Acer.

Her plight has increased public unease in the States over the question of HIV-positive health workers, and prompted the US Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to urge doctors, dentists and nurses involved in invasive procedures such as surgery to be tested for the virus. If positive, the centre suggests they tell their patients, or stop doing operations.

In fact, although the fear is understandable, the chances of patients being infected with HIV by their doctors or dentists are remote. In America, where 6,800 health care workers have developed Aids in the past decade, the Acer cases are thought to be the only instances of this type of HIV transmission.

In Britain, with more than 4,700 cases of Aids and 15,700

people reported with HIV infection to date, there have been no such examples. The UK does not, however, have figures on the incidence of either HIV infection or full-blown Aids within specific professional groups.

At the moment there is no statutory obligation for professionals to disclose their

HIV status, but the health department's guidelines on the subject are under review. The present guidelines recommend that any health worker who suspects he or she has been infected should seek immediate consultation and testing as appropriate. "They should act on any advice given about modifying or limiting their duties that may be necessary for the safety of their patients," says a health department spokesman.

The BMA, which endorses the guidelines, stresses that no doctor should continue in clinical practice on the basis of his or her own assessment of the risk to the patient. "But there is no obligation on a doctor to be tested or to disclose the results," a BMA spokesman says.

In fact, health professionals are thought to be more at risk from patients than vice versa. The British Dental Associ-

ation (BDA), which has just introduced new guidelines on the control of cross-infection in dentistry, recommends that every patient is viewed as potentially infective.

"You have no way of knowing someone's status," says Lesley Charters, an executive secretary at the BDA. "It is in a dentist's interest as well as of his patient to be scrupulous about precautions."

The new guidelines, which went out this week to 30,000 dentists, hygienists and surgery assistants, include such recommendations as an autoclave to sterilise instruments and equipment; the wearing of a new pair of rubber gloves for every patient; face masks and protective clothing for staff; specialist collection for disposal of waste; disinfection of surfaces between each session with a patient; and proper training for all in the principles of cross-infection.

"These are precautions against all blood-borne infections, not just HIV," Miss Charters adds. "They also guard against infections from one patient to another via the dentist. Patients who may be concerned should certainly ask about infection control. A good dentist will be confident and happy to explain."

Dentists who fear they may be infected with HIV have an ethical responsibility to follow the health department guidelines. The General Dental Council says those who fail to obtain or act upon medical advice may be guilty of serious professional misconduct, and struck off the register.

LIZ GILL

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Hugh Barnes on an exciting, unsettling novel that nevertheless highlights the difficulty of virtuous characters in fiction

Spooked by a Scottish cipher

The thrill of reading *The Hungry Generations* is at least partly illegitimate: it's disturbing to watch yourself submit so helplessly to the grip of David Gilmour's terrible story. The novel leaves you feeling spooked and vaguely guilty.

The author is a notable historian whose previous books include studies of Lebanon and of modern Spain as well as a biography of Lampedusa. But he is not a writer of fiction. There is hardly a trace in Gilmour of the narcissism that Orwell said was a normal motive of novelists, and to the extent that a reader finds pleasure in identifying with the novelist's narcissism, reading *The Hungry Generations* is a labour of something other than love. Emotional fulfilment is the last thing to look for.

The novel, which begins and ends with a cry of distress, has the discursive shape and style of an informal monologue built up out of anecdotes, declamation, political and literary observation, and erotic confidences. It tells the story of Hugh Gordon, scion of a noble Scottish family, growing up in the Sixties and Seventies. The constant shifting of tone and topic makes plain the moodiness of the narrator, who is a bit of a hippy, a bit of a wimp, and conceals at first the artlessness of the delivery. The plot is creaky and old-fashioned. In scattered references to the past, Hugh reveals that he was born etc., that his father was a Tory MP who resigned over Suez, and that he himself was a teenage hoover who became an intellectual.

In some ways Gordon senior is the most appealing figure in the book. A Classical scholar, he withdrew from politics in order to write a number of esoteric articles about Magna Graecia and the theory of ostracism. He also nurses some hostility to the illu-

sion of progress, being a Bimptish character who refuses to accept decimal coinage, and whose determination and suppressed nostalgia are the elements in a drama of secret resemblances.

Hugh worries about maintaining the family's neglected and reduced estate. The distraught laird is in no position to exercise noblesse oblige, however. He insists on the superiority of his own alienation, which may help to explain why he falls in love with a strident American Marxist called Ellen, who is somewhat unsteady and impulsive. The fluctuation of hyperbole and qualification, of self-pity and altruism, exposes him as a lively, humorous character with an unshakable curiosity about the outside world and

THE HUNGRY GENERATIONS
By David Gilmour
Sinclair-Stevenson, £13.95

sympathy even for the people he claims to despise.

Unlike Roddy Haldane — his best friend, another scion — who introduces himself belligerently as a savage noble, indifferent to anyone's notions of the acceptable, Hugh Gordon is a decent man — thoughtful, kind, loving. He is also difficult to handle, as most virtuous characters in fiction are. While Roddy flouts the presumed morality of the Scottish taxpayer, Hugh is a cipher, an axle around which the book turns.

The Hungry Generations is a realistic novel that flows from a solid understanding of its characters and setting, and from a passion for the Scottish landscape. Unfortunately it is not always clear what Gilmour is saying. The

book is, to a point, a political novel about a redundant aristocracy, offered with the same easy irony as the title, which comes from Keats's *Ode to a Nightingale*. Like Gilmour's other books, it is about the past, but it never seems to be in the past. In spite of his efforts at sliding backwards in time, Gordon is unable to make his way out of the present. Sometimes he slips innocently into the soup.

In the second half of the book, Lampedusa is jettisoned in favour of metropolitan kitsch. Instead of *The Leopard* and *Lampedusa* we get the Hampstead adultery novel transposed to the heart of Midlothian. The plot logic is just hokum, but here goes: a sex scandal engulfs Roddy who goes bonkers, enabling Hugh to begin an affair with Charissa, Roddy's wife; meanwhile Hugh discovers that his son is not, in fact, his son at all, but the result of a liaison between Ellen and a Portuguese Maoist.

This isn't by any means a satisfying novel, but its confusions are expressive, unsettling in weirdly memorable ways, and its mixture of self-regard and self-loathing is somehow elating. The book has a quiet, unruffled surface but, underneath the surface, soap opera and low-level slapstick are given equal weight. Gilmour likes quick jobs. The prose is clean, with just about the right figurative edge. Here is how Gilmour handles nature:

Beyond stood a single giant tree which like the others still stubbornly retained last year's leaves, but it had never been pruned and now it seemed twisted and deformed, its pale branches hanging down like vast elephants.

Nature, as Gilmour obviously knows, always needs kidding.



David Gilmour: his book displays hardly a trace of the narcissism that is the usual motive of novelists

Jennings goes green

CHILDREN

Martin Spence

JENNINGS AGAIN!
By Anthony Buckridge
Macmillan, £7.99

"OLD Wilkie's gone crackers," said Jennings. "He never calls us crawling earthworms any more. Or pestilential ballfoons. And he just says 'Doh' instead of 'Corwump!'"

"Perhaps he's in a bawse with us," said Darbishire slowly. "He is crackers, all masters are. It's a law of their union."

"But that's it," persisted Jennings. "He's never in a real bawse these days. He used to be pretty oazd. Sometimes he was oazd squared. When he was in a real bawse, he was oazd cubed."

"Perhaps you're right," Darbishire conceded. "He doesn't waffle like he used to do at the angles at the base of an isosceles triangle. Now he sports about saving trees. He's given up smoking his pipe, too, since he started cycling."

"You mean recycling, Darbi, you imply ruin. Old Wilkie's gone green! That's why he's given up his pipe. He doesn't want to pollute the ozone layer. He ticked me off yesterday for only writing one page for my Geography prep. So I told him I was saving paper to stop trees being cut down and he swallowed it. He's gone green."

"Green?" echoed Darbishire. "He looks pretty pasty to me. He still likes Matron's scuff — and her seconds. I wouldn't be surprised if he has eight meals a day."

"No, Darbi, you crazy bazooka. He's gone crackers over nature, saving the whale and picking up litter. So has the Head."

"So who runs the school now?" enquired Darbishire pensively. "Dunno, but I think it's Miss Thorpe, that crazy old bat from the village."

"Mouldy chizz," Darbishire sympathised. "I'm sick of cycling to the bottle-bank," confessed Jennings. "Let's bring a brick through the Head's greenhouse to test the greenhouse effect. Or, better still, let's find Old Wilkie's pipe and have a smoke. It won't be against rules if we use these grass cuttings."

"But his room's always locked," Darbishire flapped his fingers. "Don't be such a feeble clodpoll. We'll climb up here and get in at the window. The ivy's right up the wall since Miss Thorpe got the gardener sacked for weeding."

Seconds later, the boys were ensconced in Mr Wilkins's study and Jennings was filling the pipe with grass as nature intended. "Rare! Super-duper! Wizzzo!" He took a puff.

"What's it like?" asked Darbishire. "Hic, hic," spluttered Jennings. "Haec, hoc." Mr Wilkins's impatient tones interrupted into the room, automatically assuming an audience of small and unintelligent boys. His eyes took in the scene. "I — I — you — you — corwump!" Jennings had already begun to go green.

Power play in black and white



Visual power: Liam O'Flaherty

REPRINTED after varying degrees of absence, these three books show that, whatever its quality, the literature of the past will always give the modern reader something to think about. Mittee, set in the late 19th century Transvaal, was first published in 1951, and has been unjustly ignored since.

Selina is the coloured servant-companion since birth to Mittee, a well-off white girl of the same age. Mittee marries the rich Paul du Plessis, a violent man who murders, among others, his own deformed baby. Having been seduced by him, Selina's lot is to wait for morsels of passion at midnight "under the great wild fig tree". Drought and war shake up the values they have all inherited. Selina finally triumphs, but only as far as her expectations of herself will allow.

Selina's existence is an unforgettable reminder of the dichotomy

of love and hate between the powerless and the empowered. Despite Mittee's manipulation of her — "I'll call you sister" — she is full of competitive fire. With astonishing intensity Rooke dissects this insecure world, where the whites can openly voice their disgust towards coloureds and blacks while, behind the scenes, needing them completely to prop up their own lifestyles.

An afterword by J.M. Coetzee is useful on Rooke, perhaps simplistic on *Mittee*, but also serves to remind us that racial issues are so much more significant in our lives than 40 years ago.

To celebrate 1992, Dedalus is bringing out a series of English translations of works in European Community languages. First is *The Devil in Love* by the Frenchman, Jacques Cazotte, published in 1772. A wealthy young captain, Alvaro, conjures up Satan in the form of a hideous giant camel. It

then turns into a beautiful young woman, eager to serve him in every way, and not at all the temptress. Alvaro soon falls in love, and names her Biondetta.

The point is that Alvaro is already rich enough not to be tempted by diabolical investments (he even pays Biondetta back for

some gambling money she lends him), and is sufficiently sated by whoring not to lose himself to concupiscence. More importantly, he has a mother, the saviour and keeper of his soul, to whom he dreams of running in troubled times.

When they are about to consummate their love, Biondetta turns back into the camel, at which point Alvaro wakes as if from a dream and she has vanished. Even the devil has underestimated the shallowness of man. If nothing else, this book is a respectable curio, deserving of its place in the early history of supernatural satire.

Mr Gilhooley, with W.B. Yeats's endorsement on the cover, calls itself a thriller. But times have changed since 1926. It begins well, with an attractively ponderous description of Mr Gilhooley and the prostitutes who throng the road to his local. When

he and his motley friends become too boisterous, the pub's proprietor appears, gloriously, "with a face like a poultice".

Such a beginning could herald a blackly humorous account of dodgy deals and pimp-geld counted out behind sweating walls. But no, Gilhooley meets a curly blonde waitress with no home to go to and the next minute they are cohabiting. She of course has run away from a violent husband, and may also be a prostitute, although she dusts to keep up a front. When she mocks him openly Mr Gilhooley, suffering the unknown rage that is the fate of all who have never shed their nativity, takes matters into his own hands. O'Flaherty keenly understands the failure's feeling of permanent disgust (one character has a "wrinkled yellowish chest"), but his extraordinary visual powers sapped some of the potential strength of this novel.

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Constant in despondency: Allan Gurganus deals in outsiders



Constant in despondency: Allan Gurganus deals in outsiders

side show of goons and villains. Needless to say, it would make a great French film, and, incorporating some sassy visualised scenes, it practically reads like the script for one, right down to the fact that, as in flocks of that genre, you don't pay much attention to the unremarkable hero, but you do hope he gets the girl.

The Coded Letter and Dear Monster, a beguiling pair of novellas by Javier Tomeo, both deal with impotence and isolation. In the former (from 1979), an ex-beau plans to re-enter society after 20 years outside it by dispatching a long and incomprehensible letter to the lord of a neighbouring castle. He does not even know if his addressee is still alive, but he issues his messenger with elaborate instructions on how to deliver the letter. Like the epistle, it is not immediately clear what the single-paragraph story is getting at, if indeed it intends to get at anything. But it is made clearer by its coupling with *Dear Monster* (1985), about a 30-year-old son who proposes to cut the apron strings which shackle him to his possessive mother by applying for a job in a bank. The applicant's interview deals with his own stratagems to get out of the house and his

mother's to keep him in it. Both pieces are partly about social formality and domestic stifling — vaguely Spanish subjects — but Tomeo's stronger identification is with Kafka, and the labyrinthine paths people half-comically, half-nightmarishly follow in the prosecution of their daily business.

The Terrible News compiles a number of previously untranslated Russian short stories from the years after the Revolution, but before Stalin's imposition of the oxymoron known as Socialist Realism. Apart from Zamiatin, Babel, and Bulgakov, most of the writers anthologised here are unknown in the West. From their absurdest swipes at the chaotic new social order, it is obvious why Uncle Joe wanted them gagged. In a story by Lev Lunts, a departmental head hypnotises himself with a piece of official paper. Ilya Ily and Evgeny Petrov tell of a man who tries to eliminate the barriers between the sexes by removing his trousers on a tram. Mikhail Zoshchenko's characters complain incessantly about the expense of everything. Realism impinges more on some pieces than others, but the ghost of Gogol drifts through every page.

Heaviness with a light touch

Tom Hutchinson

RAFT
By Stephen Baxter
Grafton, £14.99

FOR purists, hard-core SF has become too soft a touch. New injections of outright fantasy have melted concepts that should be stiffened in probability, not possibility. But this debut novel polishes its idea with such realistic brilliance you can see a whole civilisation in it. Mr Baxter has erected nothing less than an entire alternative architecture of scientific speculation: a massive cathedral of Lego interlocking propositions.

Within a universe having a gravity-pull a billion times more powerful than ours, the usual two-culture tension is being worked out. Rees is a "mine-rat", digging raw material from a star-kernel, who stows away aboard a propeller-ship that shuttles between his pathetic planet and the Raft where scientists are trying to find out why the Nebula is going sour on them. Soon to be established as Scientist Second-Class, boy-wonder Rees set out to resolve this universe's dilemma, attract a lady-love, realise that migration is the only answer, and leave the way open for a sequel. Which is good news.

Mr Baxter is good at describing the crushing fact of existence ("He felt the flesh crawl under its blanket of weight"). His characters don't yet, though, have the kind of actuality with which he records his inventions.

He has gouged so well into the hard-core, that we must wait for him to realise that people really do need to go soft at the edges.

■ *The War In 2020*, by Ralph Peters (*Lime Tree*, £14.99). Fascinating in its attitudes; repulsive in its assumptions. This is Stormin' Norman literature at its most patriotically congested, set in a future

where Islamic troops are at laser-pointed odds with the Americans and the Soviets. The commanding officer, Taylor, is not so much befuddled as defied. The author writes that he has "become more convinced that the United States of America is mankind's most perfect creation". That's in an afterword... after which, there can be no words. Only: wow!

■ *Reaper Man*, by Terry Pratchett (*Gollancz*, £13.99). Mr Pratchett is a kind of Repo Man, repossessing for SF a sense of humour. It's the inevitable joy-ride, in Discworld, when Death is dismissed from his duties and the undead decide they can't take this, er, lying down. It's still possible to be merry with Terry, but his obsession with mortality has never been so apparent: Ingerman Bergman crossed with P. G. Woodhouse. But then, if you can't laugh at Death, life laughs at you. And that is — forgive the Pratchett-like pun — a very grave consequence.

■ *Eternal Light*, by Paul J. McAuley (*Gollancz*, £14.99). An unexplained star streaks into the solar system after an interstellar war, its effect on the ReUnited Nations and the religious Witnesses as profound as it is as weird a group of characters as you'd find in any mutant hangover joint. Comfortable reading, with occasional flights of a real poetic fancy.

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A small quantity of Pan Yan Olde English Chutney and Curried Fruit Chutney has been affected by glass damage during production. The jars concerned have the number 1085 printed on the top of the caps. Consumers are asked to return any of these jars bearing the 1085 code to the shop where they bought it. A full refund will be given.

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Seasonal flakes and foreigners

Jasper Rees

WHITE PEOPLE
By Allan Gurganus
Faber & Faber, £14.99

CHEROKEE
By Jean Echenoz
Faber & Faber, £13.99

THE CODED LETTER AND DEAR MONSTER
By Javier Tomeo
Translated by Anthony Edkins
Corgi, £12.95

THE TERRIBLE NEWS
Collected and translated by Grigori Gorenstein
Black Spring, £12.95

THE low season in fiction publishing has its consoling high points — most of them foreign and dust-covered. The week's best untranslated offering comes from Allan Gurganus, whose stories in *White People*, written over the past two decades, mostly pre-date his hugely lauded first novel, *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*. Despite its breadth, the collection is impressively constant. This is largely a matter of location, many of the stories being set in the polite Caucasian neighbourhood of (fictional) Falls, North Carolina. But it is also a matter of style — litting and cogitative — and tone, which dips towards despondency.

Several pieces are narrated by Bryan, the taciturn, different son of an all-American family beleaguered, as each new story reveals, by the standard shortcomings. Bryan disappoints his parents by moving to New York and realising his homosexuality; his sexual separatism gives him an outsider's insight into a codified community embarrassed by individual behaviour in any of its guises.

Whether set in Falls or not, most of Gurganus's stories deal with loners gaining access to others' alien points of view and ways of living. Despite warnings from his boss, a young white insurance collector is drawn into the poor black community he is paid to fleece. A widowed waitress describes to a bereaved daughter the ugly deaths of her snappy parents who, on a group tour in Africa, patronisingly photograph a revolution. An artist judging a nationwide design competition is besieged by entries from all America's flakes and sickheads. Out

there, the story and the whole anthology seem to say, the US of A is not the wonderland it is billed as in flailing places like Falls.

White Anglo-Saxon Protestants of the type who populate Gurganus's world tend to associate Paris with unfettered romance, but the reader will search in vain for signs of emotional life in Jean Echenoz's *Cherokee*, a razor sharp Parisian thriller which shares the spaced-out features of the wackier French films of recent years. Dating back to 1983, *Cherokee* is a contemporary of *Divine*, with which it has in common a stylised sickness and a freaky set of characters and props — caricature hoodlums, a preposterous religious sect, a parrot with a 4,000-word vocabulary, and several cool but unreliable cars. The plot itself, which has something to do with a large unclaimed inheritance, is less detaining than the exuberant

0951120120

THE SEAGULL

BY ANTON CHEKHOV TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL FRAYN


'Terry Hands has found a new dimension to Chekhov... a memorable swansong'
Guardian

*Simon Russell Beale:
'the performance of the year'*
Time Out

*Susan Fleetwood:
'a devastating portrayal'*
Daily Telegraph


'This is a potent reminder of just how fine a company the RSC is at its best'
Daily Telegraph

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Why do we still portray mad scientists who cast morality to the winds in pursuit of a monstrous creation, asks Nigel Hawkes

When men in white coats gather in a remote country mansion, muttering secretively behind their hands, you can be sure you are watching a mad scientist movie.

Pretty soon the ghastly creature made by science will break free, spreading mayhem as helicopters circle and soldiers hunt it down. Ever since Mary Shelley whizzed away a wet summer holiday in Switzerland by creating the story of Frankenstein and his monster, the plot has been as unchanging as Trooping the Colour.

For the past three weeks, ITV has been showing the latest reworking of the Frankenstein story, *Chimera*, made by Anglia from the novel by Stephen Gallagher. The final episode appears on Sunday night, when we shall discover the fate of the psychopathic half-man, half-ape created by genetic engineering. Last week he was playing cards with a couple of children, having bumped off their parents and the entire staff of a laboratory in the Yorkshire dales run by the archetypal mad scientist.

A shocking way to learn science

Following hard on the heels of *Silence of the Lambs*, which cast an unflattering light on psychiatrists, *Chimera* might lead one to fear for the whole future of science in Western societies. Do writers, readers, and TV viewers really believe that scientists behave like this, casting morality to the winds in the pursuit of their obsessions?

"I don't approve or disapprove," one woman scientist remarked in last Sunday's episode. "I'm a scientist." You could almost hear the grinding of teeth from members of the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science.

Professor Anthony Clare, the reasonable voice of psychiatry, has complained of the dim view of his subject projected by film-makers, but scientists have long given up the unequal struggle to compete with a myth so potent and cinematic as Mary Shelley's.

In his pioneering study of horror movies, *Monsters and Mad Scientists*, Andrew Tudor analysed 990 films released in Britain between 1931 and 1984. He found that mad scientists and their creations featured in almost a third of all monster movies. Werewolves and mummies trailed a long way behind.

The classic elements identified by Dr Tudor, a sociologist from York University, are almost all present in *Chimera*: a scientist obsessed by his work, a creation that turns out to be monstrous or malevolent, younger male or female characters who form the "threatened innocents", a laboratory set in an isolated castle or mansion, and a surrounding environment that provides examples of bourgeois authority, such as the police. All that is lacking is the visibly crippled assistant or aged retainer, usually responsible for



Chimera: no grip on reality

setting the creature free — but we must allow Mr Gallagher his artistic freedom, however little use he makes of it.

The striking thing about Dr Tudor's analysis, however, is his demonstration that successive

waves of scientific discovery can be so readily deployed to serve the same plot. The classic *Frankenstein* film of 1932 uses flickering discharges of electricity to bring the monster to life. By the 1950s, it was the power of atomic energy to cause mutations that created the monsters, and in the 1970s the effects of pollution. The 1990s are the era of genetic engineering, so Mr Gallagher's *Chimera* is a product of an experiment to merge the genes of man and ape.

Useless, and irrelevant, to protest that such an experiment would not work. We are watching science fiction, not *Horizon*, and the plot of *Chimera* is at least as plausible as most of its many predecessors. It is more interesting to ask why this creaking old story can still pull in the viewers, and what it may tell us about the way new scientific ideas are absorbed and made familiar.

In *The Fly*, a 1958 film in which the mad scientist accidentally turns himself into half-man, half-fly by entering his matter-transfer apparatus at the same time as a bluebottle, he discusses his invention with his wife. "Oh, André, I get so scared sometimes. The suddenness of our age: electronics, rockets, earth satellites, supersonic flight. And now this," she says. "Everything's going so fast. I'm just not ready to take it all in. It's all so quick."

Science is indeed accelerating so fast that it can be bewildering or frightening, even if its purposes are benevolent. Few can take the time or trouble to follow its advance, so they learn of it accidentally through half-read items in newspapers and by its absorption into popular culture, as in films. To most people in comfortable circumstances, change is a threat, so it is understandable

that science should so often be seen as the greatest threat of all. The appearance of new science in an old setting is one way of diminishing the shock. *Chimera* may misrepresent the behaviour and the motivation of genetic engineering but it helps to make it seem more commonplace by putting it in the familiar Frankenstein story. That much is helpful, but the longer term effects are more questionable.

The late-19th-century revision from industry and technology was fuelled by a popular culture that portrayed industrialisation as a disaster. Dickens, who started out as an enthusiastic supporter of progress and enlightenment, had by his later novels turned into a fierce critic of industry and its values. Ruskin and William Morris made this rejection intellectually respectable.

The attitudes propagated by these critics of industry had a lot to do with the relative decline of Britain's economy this century. So while it is easy to enjoy *Chimera*, I fear its underlying prejudices are damaging to science.

Will Gorbachev ditch the party?

Mary Dejevsky

Of the many anti-communist posters held aloft during popular demonstrations in Moscow over the past year, one was especially barbed. "If you wanted to succeed, you joined the party; if you want to succeed now, you leave the party."

Although about two million people have dispensed with their party cards, and the list includes some of the best-known names in contemporary Soviet politics: Boris Yeltsin, Gavril Popov, Anatoli Sobchak, and Eduard Shevardnadze. Three of these four have now been elected to public office in evidence that Soviet politics is possible without the Communist party.

The unspoken question, which may be answered today or tomorrow at the long-awaited Central Committee plenum, is whether the state president and party general secretary, Mikhail Gorbachev, will be next to leave. Aside from personal commitment to the party in which he has made his career, almost every other consideration might encourage him to cut his ties.

The party's public standing is poor and declining, as shown by the performance of party candidates in the Russian presidential election last month. Mr Gorbachev is repeatedly accused of neglecting his party role for his presidential duties. The party itself is fragmenting under combined political and economic pressures, and contains at least three potential parties. The conservative Bolshevik faction was established earlier this month; the democratic faction is likely to become a formal party early next month; and the centrists — among whom Gorbachev might number himself — would like to remain communists, but only if theirs is the deciding voice.

As so often at crucial political junctures, Mr Gorbachev has tried to change the terms, proposing to make the Communist party fit to accommodate the president of a modern democratic state. For months he has personally directed work on a new party programme which would leave little in place but the party's name. Marxism

would have to take its place along with other currents of thought. Lenin is not mentioned.

Democratic centralism — which subordinated the will of the minority to the will of the majority — is out of the window. Party membership is no longer deemed incompatible with religious belief. The party also commits itself to compete against other parties within a parliamentary system.

This programme, which ends 80 years of collectivist dogma, is the main subject of today's plenum and will precipitate heated debate. Conservatives will call it treachery. But only if it is rejected is Mr Gorbachev likely to jump ship. The lifeboat — in the shape of Shevardnadze's embryonic democratic party — is ready, but unlikely to be needed.

Assuming that the party retains its unity — more or less — and its leader, retaining power will be no easier for the Soviet Communists than it was for the former ruling parties of Eastern Europe. Whatever its policy documents say, the Communist party of the Soviet Union cannot become a party like any other without irrevocably losing its hold on power. It has been discredited by its history and its methods.

The Soviet Communist party is well on the way to losing both its original principles and its hold on power. The Bolshevik faction has plumped for the former, apparently convinced that the party's waning power is the consequence of having diluted its principles. Mr Gorbachev is plumping for power, apparently hoping that a change of principles will make this possible. In more rural and backward constituencies, his gamble may pay off. But the performance of communists in the Russian presidential elections suggests that the party and those who stand in its name are lost. The cool response of non-communists to Shevardnadze's new democratic movement shows that the political room for late converts to democracy grows ever smaller. Mr Gorbachev's non-communist Communist party may just squeeze in, but it cannot last long thereafter.

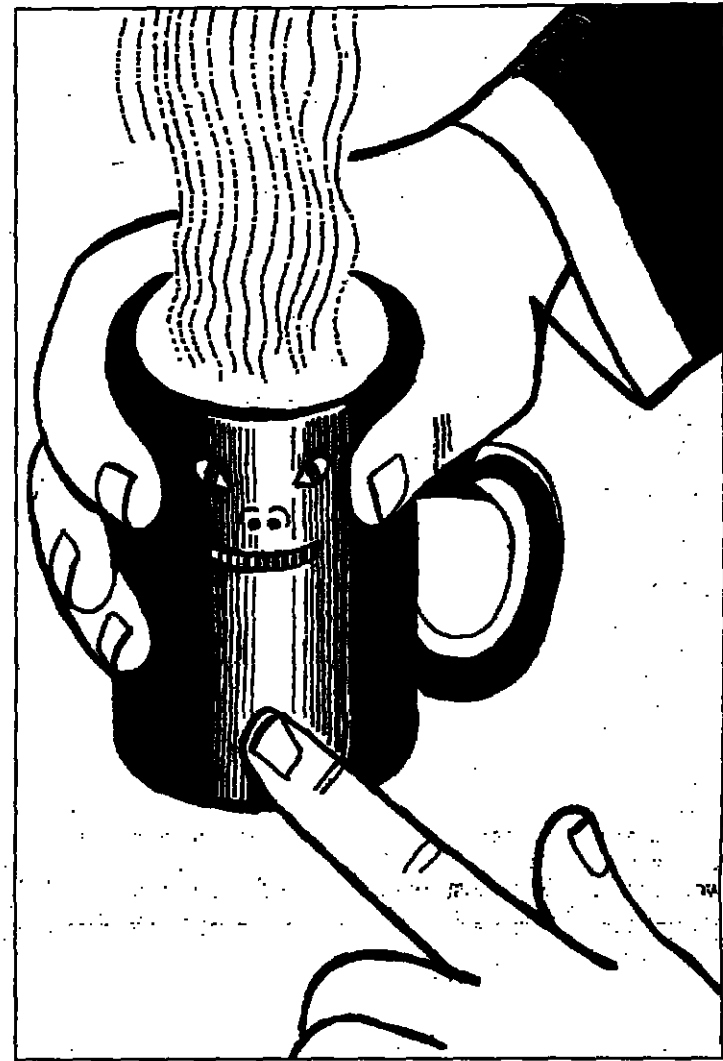
The disciples' last cuppa

The Church of England's 11th commandment does not apply to Bernard Levin

whether they drank tea instead or promptly transferred their allegiance to Maxwell House.)

Anathema sit! Anathema sit! She saw great Origen depart And Photius read the world's assunder. Her cry to all the East rolled back In Islam its ironic thunder... His and her trumpet blown before The battle where the good cause wins Louder than all the Irish harps Or the Italian violins... But in this hour she sorrows still. Though all anew the generations Rise up and call her blessed, claim Her name upon the new born Nations...

I dare say there are, here and there throughout the world, in China for instance, Christians being persecuted, their faith denied, their worship forbidden, their prayers stifled. How they will rejoice to learn that the Church of England has urged the whole body of Christendom to eschew Nescafé until further notice! How they will be strengthened when they discover that wherever the world shops — Tesco, Sainsbury, Sainsbury, Waitrose, Gateway, Kwik Save — the shelves are groaning with unsold jars of Nescafé! How they will shame their captors with their steadfastness when steaming cups of the soul's perdition (full tantalus aroma), are offered, to break their resolve, whereupon they will find even greater resources within themselves from the knowledge that not a teaspoonful of the condemned ichor has gone down the throat of any member of the Church. More or Less Militant since a new meaning was given to the familiar words (John 21:16) "Feed my sheep, but not of course with Nescafé". And what about the wedding at Cana? It is now obvious that a



DAVID SUTHER

serious mistake has been made: it was the Nescafé that was turned into wine, not the water. For that matter, one of the most intractable mysteries of the Bible — what Lazarus died of — is now solved: it was caffeine poisoning. As for the notorious incomplete line of Exodus 23:19, we are now virtually certain that it should read "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk, and a fiddler not in his mother's Nescafé".

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?" Presumably, a glib-talking Nescafé salesman. "Ye fools, when will ye be wise?" When ye give up Nescafé, of course. "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Give up Nescafé now. "The

mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice. Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariot?" Because he stayed for another cup of Nescafé, and Jael did him in while he was looking in the cupboard for the sugar.

I do not drink Nescafé, so I cannot help the cause by giving it up. (The same goes for Bach, who wrote the Coffee Cantata on the finest Blue Mountain, and ground it himself. He also sired 20 children: you try doing that on instant, and see how far you get.) But if I did drink it I might well ignore the call of duty, for there is a limit, I feel, to absurdity. I am sorry for the babies in the Third World who may (or may not) be in

danger from Nestlé's powdered milk, but I cannot help feeling that if you want to put the world to rights or even help endangered infants, you will not get far towards your worthy goal by chalking "Down with Nescafé!" on the doors of Canterbury Cathedral, much less those of the National Secular Society.

How many wars are going on at this moment? How many millions of people are in imminent danger of dying in a famine in the Horn of Africa? By what annual percentage worldwide does violent crime, including murder and rape, rise? What makes you think that AIDS is the only disease for which no cure has yet been discovered, and even if it is, how comforting is the news? How would you like to change places with an Indian whose home is a cardboard box on the pavement, and what would you do if you discovered that the box had contained 48 king-size jars of Nescafé?

There are questions more ecclesiastical than these. There is no denying, for instance, that countries like ours seem in general to dispense with faith, and instead put their trust in, say, the Abbey National building society. The C of E itself claims hardly more than a million subscribers, and few would mistake its voice for the Last Trump. But imagine the Church of England suddenly sitting up one day and calling the nation to repentance; improbable, of course, but let's pretend. In what words would the call be couched? Would it sound like Wycliffe, obstinate and averse for the truth? Or Cranmer, the slippery eel who surprised Heaven when, at the last, the eel turned into a most majestic whale? Or Wesley, knocked down and trampled by the scandalised faithful: "I never got my hat again, which cost me 1s 6d, but all the time I did not cease to speak the word of God to them?"

Well, no, actually. First things first: the Word of God is all very well, but there are matters more fitting for today's kind of zeal. At last, we can understand (Luke 22:18) those mysterious words at the Last Supper: "Take I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come." Or, as the New English Bible has it: "Which one of you lot ordered Nescafé?"

...and moreover

PETER BARNARD

Wanted: Sports Motivation (Temporary) up to £11,949 plus allowances. Apply London borough of Redbridge — advertisement.

I suppose I have always known that one day they would come for me. My life seems now to have been a preparation for page 48 of Tuesday's *Evening Standard*. What a crowded scene was that page. Yet, like walking into a Tory cabinet meeting to find Neil Kinnock chairing it, there are times when only one thing comes into focus. Not for me the opportunity to be part of exceptional growth in advertising sales, column four. Normally, I would be the last to spurn a management opportunity in the £1.6 billion leisure field, column five. But all of that was grey paint sprayed into a mist by comparison with column one.

They sent a girl round from the motivation department. She was in her twenties, came to the front door one morning at 8. I had just finished motivating myself for the morning jog to the corner shop, having run out of cigarettes. I paused on the doorstep to get my breath: lifts travel at a terrible speed these days, something should be done.

I could tell right away she was in sports motivation. Not right away. First she asked if I was who I am and when I owned up she leapt two feet off the ground, punched a phantom butterfly passing overhead and said: "Yo! All right! My man!" Several car alarms went off.

The greeting sounded a touch artificial, coming from a small blonde sent by the London

borough of Redbridge, but I could tell that her hair was in her work. Mine was in my mouth. Doctors tell me that is what happens. It is a natural physiological consequence of being punched in the stomach and slapped on the back at the same time.

She picked me up and carried me shoulder high to a nearby coffee shop. I felt like the FA Cup. A waitress brought two white, no sugar. The girl spent five minutes motivating the hell out of the waitress, so successfully that she agreed to bring two saucers. Clearly sports motivation was inter-disciplinary. I made a mental note to try it on the counter clerk in the post office.

I only had eyes for the girl. She had charisma: perhaps motivators are born with it. I wondered if hers was permanent, ponderable. She was probably wondering if mine was temporary enough. The contract was very English. They only wanted motivating until December, so they could not risk giving a five-month contract to someone with five years' motivation. You could finish up with a motivation glut. A redundant motivator could go berserk.

She asked me to define motivation. I pulled a letter from my bank manager out of my pocket, together with a final reminder from the telephone company. Two wickets in two balls. She clenched her fist and punched me on the shoulder. A great roar went up from her handbag: she had a tape recording of the Lord's pavilion after

lunch. Boy, was I motivated. She wanted to know if I had any experience in temporary sports motivation. I told her about the time the under-11 cricket captain had gone off to change his right plimsoll (his mummy always carried a spare) and I was in charge of the bowling tactics for the best part of an over. I told her how I went up to the batsman and offered him first go of my *Eagle*. He got himself out next ball.

Her face was a picture. Her eyes squeezed shut. She looked ecstatic. I started to panic. I have been uncomfortable in restaurants since *When Harry Met Sally*. All she did, though, was beat her fists on the table and shout: Love it, baby! A lightbulb shattered. Unasked, the motivated waitress brought two more white no sugar and a dishcloth.

The girl said I would have to go for a formal interview. I was getting the idea by now. Right out I said. Formal interview! I'll just get it in there and give 'em hell, right! Form, form, form! Int, int, int! Hey, lead me to that formal interview, baby!

They gave me the job. The little blonde, I call her coach, kissed me full on the mouth: now I know what it's like to be Ian Rush. I would normally have eschewed a lap of honour but the police had gone to all that trouble with cordons, so to reject an open-top bus, well, I would not have been human.

All I have to do now is find a way to motivate the bank manager to take a positive view of £11,949 plus allowances. Temporarily.

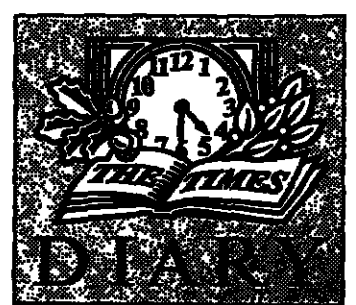
Toujours en vacances

Although Parliament rises today, government plans to keep up its electioneering throughout the summer, in a carefully stage-managed campaign, designed to give the impression that the cabinet is still hard at work. In fact, most will be soaking up the sun, leaving the most junior ministers to run the show. Even they will not be required to remain on permanent duty in Whitehall, although they have been asked to stay within 90 minutes of London.

John and Norma Major are planning a two week stay at the Spanish villa owned by Tristan Garel-Jones, the foreign office minister, before they join George and Barbara Bush in Kennebunkport. Kenneth Clarke will also be staying at the Garel-Jones home.

Peter Lilley will be decamping to his chateau near Normandy. If any urgent papers have to cross the channel, civil servants will deliver them personally, at the same time sampling the trade and industry secretary's famous hospitality. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, is packing his bags for a stay in a cottage in a remote French village. "He's given us a telephone number but no address," says an aide. Kenneth Baker, Tony Newton, and Chris Patten will also be in France, where 40 per cent of all MPs plan to take holidays, according to an ABTA survey.

Douglas Hurd is making up for the cancellation of his holiday last year due to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He will have a week in Tuscany, followed by a fortnight with the children in the west country. Michael Heseltine will be birdwatching "somewhere exotic". Most successful in avoiding the red boxes appears to be Tim Renton, the arts minister. He



plans to decamp to the island of Tire in the Outer Hebrides for the ultimate in get-away-from-it-all holidays. "Not only will they not get government papers to him, the only way they can reach him by telephone is via the local sub-post office, which passes the message on when he pops in the next day," says a Whitehall source.

Is the traditional aroma of the British countryside about to be altered forever? The Institute for Social Inventions is proposing to infuse the nation's trees with garlic to ward off marauding mammals, which are destroying saplings by stripping their bark. Garlic pellets planted near the roots would be dissolved by rain, and absorbed by the roots. The tree would then emit "stimethy selendie, the smell of garlic breath," says the institute, and deer and rabbits would be suitably deterred. What the Forestry Commission's staff will make of the idea is another matter.

Not enough Indians

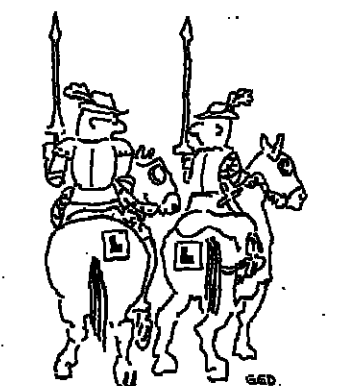
What will happen to the Colonels-in-Chief of army regiments due for merger? Appointed by the Queen, the C-in-C is a largely ceremonial role, described by the defence ministry as "very much part of the regimental family". The mergers could lead to some interesting clashes among the members of the royal family. The Princess of

Wales, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Hampshire, may face a friendly battle with Princess Juliana of the Netherlands and Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, who are the allied Colonels-in-Chief of the Queen's Regiment.

A father-son confrontation looms over the merger of the Queen's Own Highlanders and the Gordon Highlanders, for Prince Philip and the Prince of Wales respectively hold the positions. Prince Philip, as Commander-in-Chief of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, faces an even more sensitive battle over the merger with the Queen's Own Hussars. Their Commander-in-Chief is his mother-in-law, the Queen Mother.

Clanking apology

Here's now so queer as Austrian driving instructors. Kurt Mahringer, skilled in the art of three-point turns and emergency stops, and his brother Erich, a lorry driver, have just arrived in Britain from Linz — on horseback and dressed in chain-



mail. Their mission is to apologise to the Queen for the imprisonment of Richard the Lionheart nearly 800 years ago.

They are currently twiddling their swords at a stables in Longfield in Kent, pondering how to negotiate the traffic along the

Mall. "We would like to come to London to deliver our letter to the Queen, but we are worried about the traffic," says Kurt. They are loath to complete the last leg by the unromantic option of motorised transport. "That would also make us overheat in our armour," explains Erich.

Whatever they decide they will need to move fast — or they will be facing an even longer ride up the A1 to Balmoral.

Ads can damage...

The Advertising Standards Authority is considering extending its remit to include political advertising, following an unprecedented number of complaints about the Conservatives' current Sainsbury and Sainsbury campaign. More than 100 complaints have been received about the slogan "Labour's going for broke again", alongside a cigarette-style health warning. But the ASA had to rule that they were outside its competence. "The public felt that the poster misused the government health warning," says Philip Rubenstein of the authority. "As a non-statutory organ we could not pontificate on political ads. But we have decided to look at changing our rules at our next meeting in two weeks' time."

Smith Square and Walworth Road should make the most of what could be their last few months of free for all mudslinging. Patriotic guests of the English Tourist Board were horrified to be served French and Spanish wines at the reception to launch its annual report this week. The choice was particularly inappropriate given the board's current promotion of England's vineyards. "It's not on," says Alison Meredith-Hardy of Lambeth Vineyards. "They ought to serve English wine. If they can't, who can?" But, explains the board, "French and Spanish plonk are cheaper."



INKATHA-GATE

President F. W. de Klerk of South Africa has refused to tell the world until next Tuesday what he proposes to do about "Inkatha-gate", as the scandal which erupted a week ago has been dubbed. Mr de Klerk may be an ice-cool Drake, with time to finish his game of bowls before confounding his critics, or he may be an insouciant Nero. But he risks losing control of an affair which recalls the worst chicanery of his Nationalist predecessors. Mr de Klerk has been one of South Africa's most remarkable leaders of modern times. He does not need a disgrace such as this one.

Mr de Klerk has rooted his policy for transition to majority rule upon the principle of impartiality towards new black political parties. With the future domination of South African politics at stake, the African National Congress has naturally exploited Inkatha-gate to discredit its chief rivals, the white Nationalist party and the Zulu Inkatha Freedom party. But both Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the government — particularly the ministers of law and order, defence and foreign affairs — appear to have done most of the damage themselves.

Chief Buthelezi's denials of knowledge of the payments to his party are implausible. The cash, from a foreign ministry slush fund in 1989 and 1990, adds fuel to the flames of police and army involvement in tribal violence. Canny Nationalists always said that, if there were any danger of black majority rule in South Africa, the whites could "play the Zulu card". The extremists appear to have been playing it with bloody effect.

For Inkatha, extenuating circumstances can be found. The ANC, which at the time had yet to renounce the "armed struggle", had received much larger, often unaccounted subsidies from Western governments. The finances of the ANC, both before and since its legalisation, are as obscure as the rest of its affairs. Money swirls round African political organisations, and Inkatha is not the only paramilitary group to have

received covert support from officialdom as law and order is tenuously maintained in the townships and squatter camps of South Africa's cities.

There are no such excuses for the ministers involved. The position of the law and order minister, Adriaan Vlok, was weak even before the scandal broke. Even if he thought he could avoid involving the state president, he should have known that such payments would be hostages to fortune. Neither Mr Vlok nor the defence minister, General Magnus Malan, have been able to discipline their various "special forces", who have long ignored Mr de Klerk's instruction that support for the ANC should no longer be treated as a crime.

Both Mr Vlok and General Malan must surely resign. Their departure would clear the way for Mr de Klerk to introduce some new blood into his cabinet. One of the evils of long one-party rule is the inability of a ruling elite to move younger and more progressive talent into its upper echelons. This is important as the old executives of apartheid struggle, some of them without success, to implement post-apartheid. Mr de Klerk does not want to give his right wing the satisfaction of seeing non-white faces round the cabinet table. But there must soon come a moment when he bites the bullet and "pluralises" the oligarchy.

The case of P. W. Botha, the long-serving foreign minister, is more difficult. The slush fund was nominally under his control. He is something of a vicar of Bray, but a strong negotiator, well-known and liked abroad. Mr de Klerk can ill-afford to lose him. If Mr de Klerk is able to contain Inkatha-gate by sacrificing a few ministers, conducting an enquiry and winding up any remaining slush funds, he may be able to brush it off as a little local difficulty. Whatever its outcome, the scandal shows how fragile is the equilibrium of South African politics as it enters this most delicate period. As so often before, the outside world helps most by helping least.

TIDYING THE UNION HOUSE

Not many votes remain to be wrung from further trade union reform. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, needs to avoid sounding like a general still fighting the last war as he goes about justifying yesterday's green paper proposals for another tranche of legislation. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," might be the maxim even of ardent Tories towards labour relations just now. Mr Howard would serve his purpose best by not oversteering his package, presenting it as just a modest spot of housekeeping to keep the unions tidy.

There is a suspicion here, none the less, of legislating for hypothetical or remote possibilities, jousting at windmills now the real dragons have been slain. His proposals for more disclosure of a union's finances, and outside investigation of any irregularities, are designed to enforce greater accountability. Mr Howard uses the affair of the Scargill millions as justification, though it was the National Union of Mineworkers itself which initiated an enquiry. Conceivably another union might not have so acted, and the new powers would meet that case. But it is not a common one.

Mr Howard wants to end the check-off system, by which employers agree to collect union subscriptions through the wage packet. This will cause some inconvenience and save nobody from any particular evil. But collecting membership subscriptions the hard way does bring union members into monthly personal contact with a union representative, raising awareness of workplace grievances. Employers like the check-off system as it keeps a lazy union at arm's-length from its members and their complaints. The result could be greater union activity, and Mr Howard may have done the unions an unintentional favour.

Insisting on seven days' notice of a strike, in addition to the period taken to conduct a ballot, is a more dubious innovation. Industrial action without warning is a particular irritant in the public services, though no law that Mr Howard might devise can force strikers to strike on the day notice expires rather than a few days later. If a

union is stupid enough to madden the public by unexpected strikes it will still be able to do so after a short delay.

Giving the public the right to sue unofficial strikers may indeed close a loophole. But unofficial strike organisers have already learnt to make themselves hard to identify, to avoid legal action from their employer (or discipline from their union). The most likely instance for the exercise of this right would be where a left-wing local authority was in secret collusion with unlawful action by its own employees. It can happen, but it is a marginal case of a marginal case.

Two other proposals are more timely. Mr Howard wishes to outlaw the Bridlington agreement, by which unions carve up the industrial landscape to suit themselves. The 1990 Employment Act gave a statutory right to union membership, and it is a natural extension to allow individuals to join whatever union they like. A wise TUC would look at Bridlington again: indeed the European Convention on Human Rights may force it to do so, green paper or not. Without Bridlington, unions must make themselves more attractive, compete for members and even reverse the long-term decline in union membership in Britain. That again may not be quite what Mr Howard intends.

Mr Howard also proposes to reverse the automatic assumption that union agreements are not legally binding. At present they are so only if they say they are. Under the green paper all new agreements will be, unless they state they are not. The reversal, entirely voluntary, may be a useful encouragement to unions and managements to experiment with new forms of contractual relationship. They may not like where this leads, for instance legal action against an employer or union for failing to observe an agreement. But if legally binding agreements shift industrial disputes away from the cockpit of politics and strike ballots towards arbitrators and judges, that is a sort of progress — even if the chief beneficiaries are Mr Howard's fellow lawiers.

TOO EASILY BRUISED

What will government ministers read on the beach this summer? Paranoid political thrillers? Tales of Trollopian intrigue? Better for them to take several deep breaths, shut their eyes for five minutes and then bask in the sun with *Zen and the Art of Political Management* or *An Introduction to Meditation and Relaxation*. As yesterday's fiasco over the House of Commons' health committee report showed, there is a danger that Tory party managers are becoming too sensitive. They should use the break to grow an extra layer of skin.

Were Conservative MPs on the committee nobbled? William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has admitted that his department was leaked a copy of the final draft report before the committee had even discussed it. Nicholas Winterton, chairman of the committee, suspects that health ministers did not like what they saw, and that either they or the whips bullied Tory MPs to vote down the chapter on trust-status hospitals.

Neither side has proof, and the whole truth may never come out. If more of it does, in somebody's memoirs ten years hence, it will hardly rate a paragraph at the bottom of the page. But if the government was trying to interfere in the work of a select committee, the action is not so much sinister as stupid. The whole point of select committees is that they are supposed to be independent of the

executive, and to hold government departments to account.

Someone was bound to reveal the deleted passages and the end result is much greater political damage. Had ministers simply allowed the whole report to be published, they could have called a press conference to explain why the committee was misguided. The story would have blown over in a day.

Instead, some ministers in this administration seem determined to cause themselves ever more embarrassment. Because of their relative inexperience, they smart too readily at criticism, whether from their own side or from the press. Rising to taunts only buoys up the enemy.

The more government ministers rise, the more journalists and the Opposition will enjoy winding them up. The secret is to skim gracefully over the waves of political life. When they see the possibility of a little adverse publicity, ministers should follow Jim Nelson's practice in the TV serial *GBH*: clasp their left wrist with their right hand, and chant "Calm, calm, calm". People used to complain that Margaret Thatcher never read press criticism because she saw only the articles that Bernard Ingham put in front of her. Like many great actors who refuse to read bad reviews, she may have been wise. At least nobody ever accused her of being over-sensitive.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A welcome, with reservations, for the citizen's charter

From Lord Scarmen

Sir, The government's citizen's charter is indeed welcome. But it is no substitute for a constitutional charter protecting fundamental human rights — as, for instance, envisaged by "Charter 88". It is, however, an invaluable partner to a constitutional charter.

The Americans have recognised the distinction between civil rights protected by the ordinary law and fundamental rights and liberties protected by the Constitution. Our next step should be to supplement the citizen's charter with a constitutional charter. Nothing new in the idea: remember Magna Carta?

Yours etc,
LESLIE SCARMEN,
House of Lords,
July 23.

From Mr David B. Rees

Sir, Welcome though the government's latest initiative is, as is any move to make the trains run on time, to give such a creation the high-flown title of a citizen's charter is little more than a disingenuous and cynical publicity exercise by the government, designed to confuse the electorate.

For a document with so grand a name not to include any constitutional guarantees on freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, or freedom of information for the citizen, shows the exercise up for the hollow sham that it is. If the government is to show any genuine commitment to the citizen then it should lay a Bill of Rights before Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID B. REES,
The Manse, Ham Street,
Baltonsborough, Somerset,
July 22.

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, A "citizen's charter" is a misnomer. No "British citizen" exists. A native, or a naturalised inhabitant of this country, is a British subject. A "citizen" is an inhabitant of a country with a written constitution. It is not the result of some revelation. There are two types of "citizen frontiers": one "American citizen". The distinction has certain real consequences.

Mr Major's plan for improving our way of life should more properly be termed a "people's charter", if a "consumer's charter" does not more accurately represent his presumed intention.

Yours truly,
GLADWYN,
House of Lords,
July 23.

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, It would be a shame if the government assumed that the case for a Freedom of Information Act had been rendered superfluous by its citizen's charter. The charter does indeed propose some disclosure — of progress in meeting service standards. But the decision on what is released will be the government's, who will be able to exclude anything embarrassing or likely to lead to inconvenient pressure for action.

Siege machine

From Mr Charles Harris, QC

Sir, Your article (July 20) about the trebuchet, the medieval siege engine, was interesting, but I think misleading. The machines did not work by means of men "leaping in unison to pull ropes attached to one end of a 20ft throwing arm", which would have been an amusing but futile way of trying to project a heavy animal. Counterweights, weighing several tons, provided the impulsion.

The reader in medieval history at St Andrews is incorrect in stating that nobody in modern times has demonstrated the exact technology. There is a full-size working trebuchet in Shropshire, built by a friend of mine in partnership with an expert in antique weapons.

Crop circles

From Mr Ralph Noyes

Sir, I read with interest your report on the reappearance of crop circles (July 16). Hoaxing is undoubtedly taking place in some cases. We in the Centre for Crop Circle Studies are cooperating closely with the Wiltshire police in the hope of eliminating this nuisance, which is not only troublesome to farmers but muddles the scientific record.

The event in the field near Alton Barnes which occurred on July 1-2 (there has since been a second formation in the same field) was seen within hours by members of CCCS.

It will by now have lost much of

its delicate texturing as a result of sight-seeing by members of the public. But in its pristine state it showed the hallmarks of a genuine occurrence, particularly in the complex layering of the grain where the main shaft of the formation crosses the central elements of a ring and circle.

We do not believe it could have been a hoax. Mr and Mrs Carson, who farm the land, have our full support in repudiating the suggestion of trickery.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH NOYES,
(Honorary Secretary,
Centre for Crop Circle Studies),
9 Oakley Street, SW3,
July 16.

From Mr John W. Deeley

Sir, Great! Mr Major's consumer's charter was long overdue. Now, can we have a real citizen's charter?

As a consumer with such significant rights, haven't I the right as a citizen to demand an official explanation as to why I cannot enjoy equally significant rights under a freedom of information act which would place me on a par with my cousins in the USA?

Sincerely,
JOHN W. DEELEY,
16 Downs Road,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire,
July 23.

From the Director of the British Quality Association

Sir, While aspects of the citizen's charter will be the subject of considerable political debate, it is still a significant initiative aimed at setting standards in many activities of public interest.

It is to be hoped that setting these standards will be treated as part of a process of continual quality improvement and that the organisations involved will not simply accept the standards and penalties implied, but will aim to continually review and enhance their procedures to, first, conform to the standards and, gradually, to perform to still higher standards.

This approach should be part of a drive towards total quality in which every part of the organisation embraces the need to satisfy ever more demanding customer needs. If the charter is, truly, the initiator of such a process it will succeed and benefit all. If it is applied narrowly it could become discredited.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY SPINDLER,
Director,
The British Quality Association,
10 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,
July 23.

School opting out

From Mr Colin Behrens

Sir, Your leader, "A ministerial raffle" (July 16), presented an extremely one-sided view of the education scene. Whether it is the secretary of state who wishes to remove schools from the control of local councils, or schools who wish to remove themselves, is very much a moot point.

In the case of Townmead School, of which I happen to be chairman of governors, it is certainly the latter. We wish to get away from the inefficiency, bureaucracy, and inadequate funding of our local council, to cease being a political football at every available opportunity, and to be free to concentrate our energy and enthusiasm on providing the best possible education for the young people entrusted to our care.

Our governors voted last November to ballot the parents on applying for grant maintained status, and in January our parents voted 98 per cent in favour.

What the government desperately needs to do is to streamline the whole process and make it easier for schools to opt out, as the prime minister stated in his recent speech. We have already waited eight months, and are impatient for a decision to be made.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BEHRENS
(Chairman of Governors),
Townmead School,
Wise Lane,
West Drayton, Middlesex.

Wave power

From Mr Stewart Boyle

Sir, I refer to your coverage (Nick Nuttall, July 17) of the hint by Colin Moynihan to resuscitate the country's wave power programme after many years of neglect. While it would be churlish to describe this as a publicity stunt designed to woo wavering greens, it should be examined in the context of the government's overall commitment to renewable energy technologies.

A small market for renewable energy was established in the wake of electricity privatisation. However, the target set by the government fails to recognise the enormous technical and economic potential, estimated by the Department of Energy to be more than our current total electricity consumption. At only 1,000 megawatts (or around 1 per cent of Britain's

electricity capacity) this target can do little to reduce the country's contribution to global warming. The fact that many entrepreneurs have proposed viable schemes and have been refused, and that in Scotland and Northern Ireland there is no target at all, all point to an urgent need for change.

On the back of rising concerns over global warming and acid rain, renewable energy technologies such as wave stations, wind turbines and solar cells, will become as important to world commerce in the next century as the oil business is today. Whether Britain can keep pace with the Danes, Germans, Americans and Japanese depends on how the domestic renewable energy industry

From Mr Michael Soole

Sir, The citizen's charter would be more convincing if it were not promoted by large newspaper advertisements headed "Better public services start here" and containing "The Government is committed to improving public services. That's why we (sic) are launching The Citizen's Charter. The Citizen's Charter will provide a new standard for public services".

A rather more worthwhile charter would entrench the principles, apparently ignored by these and similar government advertisements, that (1) proposals from the government do not become law until sanctioned by Parliament; and (2) the citizen's money is not to be spent, at least without express parliamentary consent, on partisan promotional material.

If the citizen's rights are to include the compulsory entitlement to pay for the promotion of the party policies of the government of the day, perhaps the charter should make this clear.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SOOLE,
9 Charlton Place, NI,
July 23.

From Dr D. Rudd-Jones

Sir, In the spirit of the citizen's charter, and with the threat of further cuts in services, do you think that British Rail might be persuaded to address us again as "passengers" rather than "customers"? To my mind, the term "customer" implies that there are alternative providers of rail services for me to use. I wish there were.

Yours sincerely,
D. RUDD-JONES,
Bignor Park Cottage, Sutton End,
Pulborough, West Sussex,
July 23.

From Professor Paul Henderson

Sir, It seems that British Rail has anticipated the citizen's charter. The recently introduced timetable shows that the evening "Network Express" train I take regularly has increased its journey time from 30 minutes under the old timetable to 41 minutes now, without any additional stops.

The probability of a train being "late" as distinct from just slow is greatly reduced by this arrangement.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL HENDERSON,
4 Linden Avenue,
Maidenhead, Berkshire,
July 23.

From Lady Horden

Sir, One day last week, at about 8am, I received a telephone call from a very friendly and polite official from the Kensington and Chelsea council, warning me that the resident's parking bay in which my car was parked would be suspended at 8.30am for works to be carried out by British Telecom. She wanted to give me time to move it.

Might this possibly have been the first embryonic fluttering of the citizen's charter?

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN HORDERN,
55 Cadogan Street, SW3,
July 23.

Alcohol and car racing

From Mr Piers Taylor

Sir, Having been part of the organisation of events at Silverstone I can assure Mr Bottomley (July 16) that Labatt's, the Canadian lager firm which sponsored the winner's car, also sponsored bill-board lorries on roads approaching the circuit, two cars in a supporting race and a full page in the programme. All of these bore the slogan "Please don't drink and drive".

Yours faithfully,
PIERS TAYLOR,
St Edmund's House, Craven Close,
Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey,
July 17.

Random breathtesting

From Dr David A. Harris

Sir, Sir Hugh Cubitt (July 15) rightly feels angry at the specious excuse of "road safety checks" given for random breathtesting of motorists. After being stopped, late at night in pouring rain, by West Glamorgan police, and after a negative breath test, I was told I had been stopped because I was driving carefully.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. HARRIS,
Chestnut Rise, The Park,
Harwell, Oxfordshire.

Welsh woe

From Mr Donald Thompson, MP for Calder Valley (Conservative)

Sir, One wonders whether the Welsh Rugby Union (Sport, July 15, 22) will now adopt the same policy as Yorkshire County Cricket Club and recruit a few overseas players.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD THOMPSON,
House of Commons,
July 22.

Enquiry launched into leak of secret report

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ENQUIRY was launched last night into the leak to the health department of a secret draft report by the Commons health committee criticising the government's introduction of NHS hospital trusts.

The 74-page report was written by Nicholas Winterton, a Tory MP and the committee's chairman who is a persistent critic of the government's health reforms. The committee's five Tory members, in a seven-hour session last Wednesday, voted to remove 17 pages criticising the trusts. The question at Westminster yesterday was: were they told to do so?

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, admitted that his department had received a copy of the draft report written by Mr Winterton before the committee had approved it. Mr Winterton and some Labour MPs claimed that, after the draft had been read, pressure was successfully put on the five other Tory members to use their majority to remove the critical 17 pages from the final report.

The original report would have been particularly sensitive as the government prepares to announce the second wave of applications from hospitals seeking to opt out of local health authority control. However, the offending 17 pages still appeared in the appendix of the final report as part of the minutes of proceedings.

Although the Tory MPs denied the allegations, Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, last night demanded a Commons statement from Mr Waldegrave over the leak to officials from a committee set up to investigate the work of a government department.

Leading article, page 15



Winterton: a persistent critic of NHS reforms



Medlark: Paul Grief scours the banks of the River Ouse for marsh samphire. A legal ruling in Norfolk may now threaten supplies of the delicacy

Samphire hunters in troubled waters

By JOHN SHAW

A DELICACY growing wild on the saltmarshes of north Norfolk and enjoyed by local people for centuries may be bogged down in legal mudflats by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Marsh samphire, known formally as *Salicornia herbacea* and informally as poor man's asparagus, has been a traditional delicacy during its brief three-month peak from June to August. The plant was served at the wedding breakfast of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and its nutritional fame has spread to restaurants in London. But unsuspecting fishermen may be caught by regulations preventing its removal without permission or from sites of special scientific interest. The penalty is a fine of up to £1,000.

The offence of uprooting samphire was referred to by Judge Head, sitting at King's Lynn, if people did not have the landowner's consent for its removal, they risked prosecution, he said.

Shakespeare, in *King Lear*, referred to the "dreadful trade" of those who collect samphire. Local people, undeterred by the hard distaste, still gather their own supplies

— or buy it from fishmongers. It was 60p-90p a pound yesterday in King's Lynn, and locals swore by its nutritional value.

Joan Williamson, of J and J Shellfish, said: "I can see they want to protect the environment but who owns the marshes? The coastline belongs to the Crown but the beaches and marshy gullies are treated as public property. Albert Ball, a fishmonger with three royal warrants, was unaware of the risk. 'It is a very popular plant. People have eaten it for years. Nobody will ever make a lot of money from it,'" said Mrs Ball.

Samphire may be eaten raw or cooked for three or four minutes in boiling water and served with vinegar or fresh butter. It often accompanies plainly cooked fish.

The National Trust owns a seven-mile stretch of coast from Suffield to Salhouse. "Eating samphire is an age-old tradition," said Joe Reed, the trust warden. "It is such an abundant crop and only a relatively small amount is taken that we do not think it is much of a problem at present. Clearly if it became a big commercial operation we would have the power to stop it."

Tories unveil strike curbs

Continued from page 1

ending the TUC's inter-union procedures; requiring written employee consent for the deduction of union membership dues; and strengthening the requirements of disclosure of union finances, and penalties for failing to do so.

In the Commons, the government's statement on the green paper prompted bitter exchanges with the Labour party. Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, tanned Mr Howard by quoting him 18 months ago, saying

there was no need for further union legislation, and described the paper as "irrelevant" and a "partisan piece of mischief-making". Mr Howard hit back by maintaining that Mr Blair was speaking only for Labour's union paymasters, and accused the party of "cowardly silence" over the details of the proposals.

Ronald Leighton, Labour chairman of the employment select committee, called the document "crude and blatant electioneering" and Stan Orme, a former Labour minister who said he had spent most of his life working for better industrial relations, thought the "disastrous" proposals would damage those relations.

Labour MPs face axe in purge of Militant

Continued from page 1

people are guilty until proved innocent. Frankly, if we want to win the next general election this is not the way to go about it." Asked whether he was saying he was not a member of Militant, he replied: "I have been saying that until I am blue in the face."

After the NEC meeting, David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside, said: "They will have an opportunity to make it abundantly clear whether they dissociate themselves from the Militant tendency or not." Clare Short,

MP for Birmingham Ladywood, said she would like the two to renounce Militant links, but added: "We know that in the past members of Militant have been dishonest about what they actually think."

Mr Kinnoch told the meeting: "I am a member of the democratic tendency. I cannot support the membership of the Labour party of anybody who supports an organisation with its own programme, principles and policies and that is what the entryist Militant tendency is."

Several Labour MPs attacked the proposal to ensure that union subscriptions were not deducted by "check-off" arrangements from pay without an employee's consent, but Mr Howard said that if consent were obtained, the arrangements would not be affected.

Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat spokesman, said there was a widespread feeling that further changes in industrial relations law were not justified and Mr Howard's new proposals were irrelevant to running the economy.

Political sketch

Labour shows a touch of class

ACROSS the dispatch box yesterday, an entertaining battle took place between two rising stars. Both are young, both good-looking. Both are barristers, both articulate. And both are very, very bright.

Each speaks for his party on employment. Each is tipped as a possible PM. Neither is wedded to dogma, for these men are not crusaders or class-warriors: political pragmatism is another thing they share. Little comes between them: little except ambition, and party.

And background. For the battle was between a public school boy and a state school boy. The posh one, himself a barrister's son, lists two middle names in *Who's Who* ("Charles" and "Lynton") and was educated at The Chorister School, Durham, and Fettes College in Edinburgh, whence he went to Oxford. The grammar school boy, a shopkeeper's son, lists no middle name and was educated at Llanelli grammar school, whence he found a place at Cambridge.

Anthony Charles Lynton Blair is Labour's principal employment spokesman. Michael Howard is the Conservative secretary of state for employment.

Howard was there to introduce his green paper on industrial relations law reform. With an eye to the coming election, this includes the chairman's charter commitment to give individuals the right to trigger injunctions halting strikes in public services. It includes a great deal more, whose details escape us, designed to draw approving growls from Tories and yelps of protest from the Labour side, and probably not much else.

Howard has been shrewd. He has been sifting through the ashes of the trade union reform battles of the 1980s: clinker from coals which once made a blaze before which Mrs Thatcher warmed her hands through

three elections. The search has been for tiny lumps as yet unburned, or glowing still: a quest familiar to the skier through the ages.

So our scholarship boy came into the chamber armed with a big sheaf of papers and a very long statement indeed. He had it to heart. He knew all the answers. And he read it with the emphasis and hint of earnestness which are his hallmark, in accents unmarked by class or region, beyond a very slight Welsh edge. The Tories behind him cheered lustily and often. "Ho ho!" the cheers implied, "here's a good, well-tried stick with which to give Labour another whacking!"

What could Blair say? He was surrounded by TUC dinosaurs from mining co-ordinators. To please them with a thundering rehearsal of the glories of unreconstructed trade unionism would play straight into the hands of Tory Central Office. A quieter response would disappoint his own side.

Mr Blair pitched it just right. With the lightest of touches and complete self-confidence he sauntered through the green paper, grinning. He tweaked this, prodded that, inspected the teeth of a clause or two... and pronounced that it did not pass muster. It was all got up for the hustings. He gave examples, seemingly very learned examples, with the winning assurance of a flexible young swell.

His own side barely understood what he was saying, but loved it. Later, Mr Howard painstakingly picked it apart. But Mr Blair won the moment, and that matters in the chamber. A certain swagger helps, and a public school education provides it. Class still counts for something in the parliamentary Labour party.

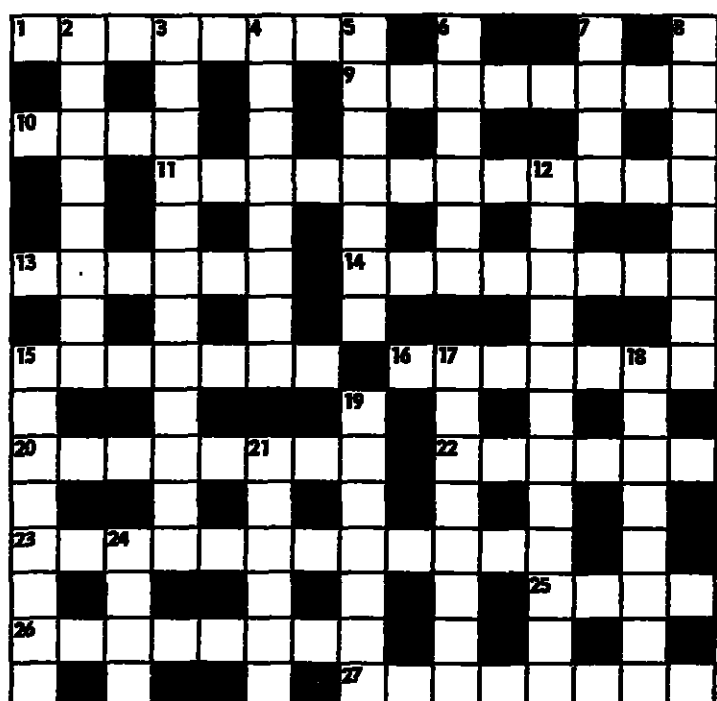
MATTHEW PARRIS

WONDERS NEVER CEASE

More than 4,000 years after the first of them was built, the seven wonders of the world have become familiar to people of every age. Few can name all seven, few know, or care, that six of them are buried. That they ever existed is sufficient. This weekend the Saturday Review begins a series on the original magnificent seven and asks readers to name the seven wonders of the 20th century. The best list will win a holiday for two.

Tomorrow: Debbie Owen talks to Kate Muir about why the government should be prepared to pay for the glue that holds marriages together

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,667



ACROSS

- 1 Is it included in the main order? (8)
- 9 Haydn's creation, for example, given a capital start (8)
- 10 Shock from crackers pulled the wrong way (4)
- 11 This country will keep it in mind after August (5,7)
- 13 Refreshments box? (6)
- 14 He is a possible danger to me, an MP abroad (8)
- 15 Bar facing the wrong way? Hard lines on the party! (7)
- 16 Instant offer? (7)
- 20 Aussie pack of beer deposited in rural area (8)
- 22 Bachelor's buttons, for example, left in trousers (6)
- 23 Country air rallies me as I go rambling (12)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,666

ACROSS
1. ELO
9. C
10. C
11. C
13. C
14. C
15. C
16. C
20. C
22. C
23. C

DOWN

- 2 Shed you once found in a river (8)
- 26 Unsettled balance reduced (8)
- 27 Pitched into leader of gang for going slow (8)
- 28 A Thames frost fair (8)
- 29 A thieves' kitchen (8)
- 30 A Provencal French tartlet (8)
- 31 Tartan wallpaper (8)
- 32 A little covered wagon (8)
- 33 A little covered wagon (8)
- 34 The father of Zeus (8)
- 35 The father of Zeus (8)

Answers on page 18, column 1

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1		732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T		733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M2		734
M-ways/roads M23-M4		735
M25 London Orbital only		736
National		
National motorways		737
West Country		738
Wales		739
Midlands		740
East Angles		741
North-west England		742
North-east England		743
Scotland		744
Northern Ireland		745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly dry, with some sunshine, but Scotland's east coast will be dull and misty. Light rain may affect western parts of Northern Ireland. England and Wales will be cloudy, with rain. Brighter weather will spread from the North-West this afternoon, but eastern areas may stay dull. Outlook: cloudy with rain in the west; drier and clearer in the east, with some sunshine.

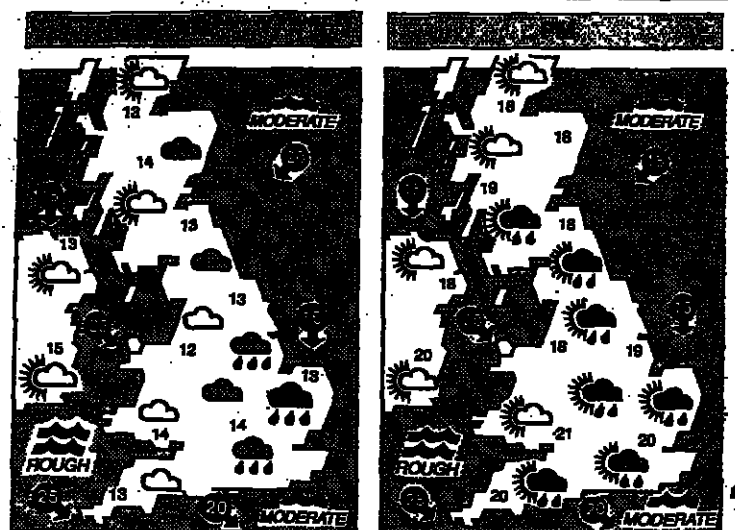
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Aberdeen	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10	10
Bristol	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10
Glasgow	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10
Plymouth	10	10	10	10
Reading	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10
Southampton	10	10	10	10
Teesside	10	10	10	10
Wolverhampton	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	10	10	10	10

These are Tuesday's figures

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 8pm, 18C (64F); min 8pm to 8am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 60-80%. Wind: 10-20 mph. Rain: 10-20 mm. Sun: 10-20 min.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	705
Bedfordshire & Herts	706
Northamptonshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcs	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire	712
Yorkshire & Lancashire	713
North Yorkshire	714
North West England	715
W & S Yorkshire & Wales	716
N & E England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S & W Scotland	719
W & Central Scotland	720
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	721
E & Central Scotland	722
Grampian & E Highlands	723
N & W Scotland	724
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	725
N Ireland	726
Weathercall is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.	
* includes pollen count	



Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, about 1°C; b, 10-15°C; c, 15-20°C; d, 20-25°C; e, 25-30°C; f, 30-35°C; g, 35-40°C; h, 40-45°C; i, 45-50°C; j, 50-55°C; k, 55-60°C; l, 60-65°C; m, 65-70°C; n, 70-75°C; o, 75-80°C; p, 80-85°C; q, 85-90°C; r, 90-95°C; s, 95-100°C; t, 100-105°C; u, 105-110°C; v, 110-115°C; w, 115-120°C; x, 120-125°C; y, 125-130°C; z, 130-135°C; aa, 135-140°C; ab, 140-145°C; ac, 145-150°C; ad, 150-155°C; ae, 155-160°C; af, 160-165°C; ag, 165-170°C; ah, 170-175°C; ai, 175-180°C; aj, 180-185°C; ak, 185-190°C; al, 190-195°C; am, 195-200°C; an, 200-205°C; ao, 205-209°C; ap, 209-213°C; aqu, 213-217°C; ar, 217-221°C; as, 221-225°C; at, 225-229°C; au, 229-233°C; av, 233-237°C; aw, 237-241°C; ax, 241-245°C; ay, 245-249°C; az, 249-253°C; ba, 253-257°C; bb, 257-261°C; bc, 261-265°C; bd, 265-269°C; be, 269-273°C; bf, 273-277°C; bg, 277-281°C; bh, 281-285°C; bi, 285-289°C; bj, 289-293°C; bk, 293-297°C; bl, 297-301°C; bm, 301-305°C; bn, 305-309°C; bo, 309-313°C; bp, 313-317°C; bq, 317-321°C; br, 321-325°C; bs, 325-329°C; bt, 329-333°C; bu, 333-337°C; bv, 337-341°C; bw, 341-345°C; bx, 345-349°C; by, 349-353°C; bz, 353-357°C; ca, 357-361°C; cb, 361-365°C; cc, 365-369°C; cd, 369-373°C; ce, 373-377°C; cf, 377-381°C; cg, 381-385°C; ch, 385-389°C; ci, 389-393°C; cj, 393-397°C; ck, 397-401°C; cl, 401-405°C; cm, 405-409°C; cn, 409-413°C; co, 413-417°C; cp, 417-421°C; cq, 421-425°C; cr, 425-429°C; cs, 429-433°C; ct, 433-437°C; cu, 437-441°C; cv, 441-445°C; cw, 445-449°C; cx, 449-453°C; cy, 453-457°C; cz, 457-461°C; da, 461-465°C; db, 465-469°C; dc, 469-473°C; dd, 473-477°C; de, 477-481°C; df, 481-485°C; dg, 485-489°C; dh, 489-493°C; di, 493-497°C; dj, 497-501°C; dk, 501-505°C; dl, 505-509°C; dm, 509-513°C; dn, 513-517°C; do, 517-521°C; dp, 521-525°C; dq, 525-529°C; dr, 529-533°C; ds, 533-537°C; dt, 537-541°C; du, 541-545°C; dv, 545-549°C; dw, 549-553°C; dx, 553-557°C; dy, 557-561°C; dz, 561-565°C; ea, 565-569°C; eb, 569-573°C; ec, 573-577°C; ed, 577-581°C; ee, 581-585°C; ef, 585-589°C; eg, 589-593°C; eh, 593-597°C; ei, 597-601°C; ej, 601-605°C; ek, 605-609°C; el, 609-613°C; em, 613-617°C; en, 617-621°C; eo, 621-625°C; ep, 625-629°C; eq, 629-633°C; er, 633-637°C; es, 637-641°C; et, 641-645°C; eu, 645-649°C; ev, 649-653°C; ew, 653-657°C; ex, 657-661°C; ey, 661-665°C; ez, 665-669°C; fa, 669-673°C; fb, 673-677°C; fc, 677-681°C; fd, 681-685°C; fe, 685-689°C; ff, 689-693°C; fg, 693-697°C; fh, 697-701°C; fi, 701-705°C; fj, 705-709°C; fk, 709-713°C; fl, 713-717°C; fm, 717-721°C; fn, 721-725°C; fo, 725-729°C; fp, 729-733°C; fq, 733-737°C; fr, 737-741°C; fs, 741-745°C; ft, 745-749°C; fu, 749-753°C; fv, 753-757°C; fw, 757-761°C; fx, 761-765°C; fy, 765-769°C; fz, 769-773°C; ga, 773-777°C; gb, 777-781°C; gc, 781-785°C; gd, 785-789°C; ge, 789-793°C; gf, 793-797°C; gh, 797-801°C; gi, 801-805°C; gj, 805-809°C; gk, 809-813°C; gl, 813-817°C; gm, 817-821°C; gn, 821-825°C; go, 825-829°C; gp, 829-833°C; gq, 833-837°C; gr, 837-841°C; gs, 841-845°C; gt, 845-849°C; gu, 849-853°C; gv, 853-857°C; gw, 857-861°C; gx, 861-865°C; gy, 865-869°C; gz, 869-873°C; ha, 873-877°C; hb, 877-881°C; hc, 881-885°C; hd, 885-889°C; he, 889-893°C; hf, 893-897°C; hg, 897-901°C; hh, 901-905°C; hi, 905-909°C; hj, 909-913°C; hk, 913-917°C; hl, 917-921°C; hm, 921-925°C; hn, 925-929°C; ho, 929-933°C; hp, 933-937°C; hq, 937-941°C; hr, 941-945°C; hs, 945-949°C; ht, 949-953°C; hu, 953-957°C; hv, 957-961°C; hw, 961-965°C; hx, 965-969°C; hy, 969-973°C; hz, 973-977°C; ia, 977-981°C; ib, 981-985°C; ic, 985-989°C; id, 989-993°C; ie, 993-997°C; if, 997-1001°C; ig, 1001-1005°C; ih, 1005-1009°C; ii, 1009-1013°C; ij, 1013-1017°C; ik, 1017-1021°C; il, 1021-1025°C; im, 1025-1029°C; in, 1029-1033°C; io, 1033-1037°C; ip, 1037-1041°C; iq, 1041-1045°C; ir, 1045-1049°C; is, 1049-1053°C; it, 1053-1057°C; iu, 1057-1061°C; iv, 1061-1065°C; iw, 1065-1069°C; ix, 1069-1073°C; iy, 1073-1077°C; iz, 1077-1081°C; ja, 1081-1085°C; jb, 1085-1089°C; jc, 1089-1093°C; jd, 1093-1097°C; je, 1097-1101°C; jf, 1101-1105°C; jg, 1105-1109°C; jh, 1109-1113°C; ji, 1113-1117°C; jj, 1117-1121°C; jk, 1121-1125°C; jl, 1125-1129°C; jm, 1129-1133°C; jn, 1133-1137°C; jo, 1137-1141°C; jp, 1141-1145°C; jq, 1145-1149°C; jr, 1149-1153°C; js, 1153-1157°C; jt, 1157-1161°C; ju, 1161-1165°C; jv, 1165-1169°C; jw, 1169-1173°C; jx, 1173-1177°C; jy, 1177-1181°C; jz, 1181-1185°C; ka, 1185-1189°C; kb, 1189-1193°C; kc, 1193-1197°C; kd, 1197-1201°C; ke, 1201-1205°C; kf, 1205-1209°C; kg, 1209-1213°C; kh, 1213-1217°C; ki, 1217-1221°C; kj, 1221-1225°C; kl, 1225-1229°C; km, 1229-1233°C; kn, 1233-1237°C; ko, 1237-1241°C; kp, 1241-1245°C; kq, 1245-1249°C; kr, 1249-1253°C; ks, 1253-1257°C; kt, 1257-1261°C; ku, 1261-1265°C; kv, 1265-1269°C; kw, 1269-1273°C; kx, 1273-1277°C; ky, 1277-1281°C; kz, 1281-1285°C; la, 1285-1289°C; lb, 1289-1293°C; lc, 1293-1297°C; ld, 1297-1301°C; le, 1301-1305°C; lf, 1305-1309°C; lg, 1309-1313°C; lh, 1313-1317°C; li, 1317-1321°C; lj, 1321-1325°C; lk, 1325-1329°C; ll, 1329-1333°C; lm, 1333-1337°C; ln, 1337-1341°C; lo, 1341-1345°C; lp, 1345-1349°C; lq, 1349-1353°C; lr, 1353-1357°C; ls, 1357-1361°C; lt, 1361-1365°C; lu, 1365-1369°C; lv, 1369-1373°C; lw, 1373-1377°C; lx, 1377-1381°C; ly, 1381-1385°C; lz, 1385-1389°C; ma, 1389-1393°C; mb, 1393-1397°C; mc, 1397-1401°C; md, 1401-1405°C; me, 1405-1409°C; mf, 1409-1413°C; mg, 1413-1417°C; mh, 1417-1421°C; mi, 1421-1425°C; mj, 1425-1429°C; mk, 1429-1433°C; ml, 1433-1437°C; mm, 1437-1441°C; mn, 1441-1445°C; mo, 1445-1449°C; mp, 1449-1453°C; mq, 1453-1457°C; mr, 1457-1461°C; ms, 1461-1465°C; mt, 1465-1469°C; mu, 1469-1473°C; mv, 1473-1477°C; mw, 1477-1481°C; mx, 1481-1485°C; my, 1485-1489°C

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26
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● SPORT 31-36

Bidders win more than 50% of Spurs

THE £7.6 million offer for Tottenham Hotspur has gone unconditional with acceptances taking the stake controlled by Alan Sugar and Terry Venables above 50 per cent. Despite a recommendation from the bidders not to accept the offer, several institutions bailed out of Tottenham at 75p a share. For long periods during the Tottenham drama the shares appeared worthless. Trading was suspended at 9.15p last October.

The 11.24 per cent acceptances mean that Mr Sugar, Mr Venables and Tony Berry, who is deemed to be acting in concert with the bidders, control 54.87 per cent of the shares. The offer has been extended to August 7.

ICI interim

ICI, the chemicals group, unveils interim profits and details of its global restructuring today. Analysts expect interim pre-tax profits of £420 million to £466 million (£733 million) and the interim dividend to be maintained at 21p.

Day of reckoning, page 23

Mirror rises

Mirror Group Newspapers has announced its first results with a £600,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £42 million for the first half of the year. The maiden dividend is 0.8p.

Temps, page 23

Lasmo gains

Lasmo reports a cash flow of £120 million (£74 million) and a net income of £33.5 million (£32.1 million) for the six months ended June 30. The interim dividend rises from 2.2p to 2.3p.

Temps, page 23

Payout raised

Lloyds Abbey Life reports a 2 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £149.5 million for the six months to end-June. The interim dividend is increased from 6p to 6.3p.

Temps, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6915 (+0.0100)
German mark 2.9398 (-0.0180)
Exchange index 91.0 (-0.1)

STOCK EXCHANGE

FT 30 Share 1999.6 (-6.5)
FT-SE 100 2580.5 (-7.4)
New York Dow Jones 2980.32 (-2.91)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23297.47 (+538.49)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
J Smurfit 616p (+8p)
MPC 473p (+20p)
Ferry Group 274p (+10p)
British Land 296p (+11p)
Hammerson 'A' 614p (+18p)
Hedderley 162p (+14p)
Land Sec 508p (+8p)
Slough Estates 267p (+18p)
Hendriew 557p (+12p)
FALLS:
Cater Allen 325p (-22p)
Union Discount 332p (-12p)
Lloyds 343p (-5p)
Guinness 981p (-9p)
Geestner 139p (-11p)
Rascal Telecom 213p (-8p)
Cable Group 348p (-12p)
LASMO 495p (-10p)
Ranger 311p (-15p)
Wills Corcoran 311p (-15p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%
3-month Interbank 11%
3-month eligible bills 10%
US Prime Rate 6.5%
Federal Funds 5.5%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.5%
30-year bonds 9.5%
30-year bonds 9.5%

CURRENCIES

London:
£/\$ 1.6915
£/DM 2.9398
£/Sfr 1.5107
£/FF 6.5596
£/Yen 137.36
Index 91.0
ECU 1.3363
SDR 1.3363
ECU 1.3363
SDR 1.3363

GOLD

London Phg: AM \$367.00
Close \$365.00-366.50 (\$215.75-216.25)
New York:
Comex \$365.25-366.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$10.35 bbl (\$19.50)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 June (1987=100)

First profit in 13 years marred by environmental warning and further pit closures

British Coal makes £78m and cuts jobs

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Coal has confirmed that at least 7,000 more jobs will go in the coal industry as it announced £78 million profits, its first in 13 years.

The company, which said it had undergone a "fundamental shift from being a producer-driven to a consumer-led business", also said that highly efficient mines would have to close unless improved environmental equipment was fitted to power stations.

Seven pits, involving 7,000 employees, are to be closed this year: two are already agreed, while five more are in the colliery closure review procedure. The closure programme has been agreed with British Coal's unions. The collieries affected are in Yorkshire, the Northwest, the Northeast and South Wales.

More jobs could go, however, as British Coal said the number of those leaving the industry this year was likely to

Overall profit/(loss) £m	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
(270)	(494)	(203)	(913)	78	

be the same as in 1990, just under 11,000. Total employment in the company is 74,300, compared to 293,900 a decade ago.

British Coal said it had achieved its main financial objectives for 1990-1 of an operating profit on deep mining, an operating cash surplus and an overall profit. The £78 million is its first overall profit since 1977-8.

While taking pride in the profit turnaround, the company stressed its modesty, especially in relation to a turnover of £3.95 billion. Neil Clarke, the chairman, described the profit as excellent.

He said: "British Coal is the most efficient coalmining business in Europe. We can look to the future with confidence." But he gave warning that the company's ability to maintain its position as a

large-scale business depended to a considerable extent on environmental challenges. Support for reducing sulphur emissions from existing coal-fired power stations was now an immediate problem. "Unless more fine gas desulphurisation equipment is fitted, highly efficient pits will have to close because there will be no local market for their coal," he said.

Britain's coal industry needs to win "substantive contracts" from the electricity generating companies if it is to survive into the 21st century. Mr Clarke said British Coal could offer guaranteed long-term supplies to the companies at below-inflation prices.

The company repeated its warning that both National Power and PowerGen, which together comprise 77 per cent of its sales, intend to diversify their fuel supply sources when their current contracts expire in March 1993, and Mr Clarke added: "Our market share is under threat both from natural gas and imported lower sulphur coals. But we will strive to meet the market and its environmental challenges."

British Coal's key sectors of deep-mining and open-pit were both profitable. The company stressed the importance of the £43 million deep-mined profit, but the £150 million open-pit profit is both less than had been hoped for, and down on last year's profit figure of £234 million.

Open-pit, where fuel costs are high, was hit hard by high gas, oil and diesel prices resulting from the Gulf war, and the company said that the effect of planning refusals during last year will show even more clearly in what it expects will be further reduced profits in 1991-2.

Productivity again improved, for the sixth consecutive year, rising to 4.7 tonnes per man-shift, helping to keep unit costs to the level of the previous year. Cumulatively, productivity in the industry has now risen by 98 per cent since 1985. But part of that productivity growth is still coming through closures, with nine mines being shut during the year - though 39 pits broke their own productivity records during the period.

Tetra Pak fined, page 22



Proud moment: Neil Clarke, chairman, sees British Coal's first profits for 13 years as a step in the right direction

German inflation threat to Britain

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE worst German inflation figures for more than a decade have increased the likelihood of an early rise in German interest rates and pushed the mark up sharply.

German monetary tightening would pose a problem for the British government, as it would limit the scope for lowering domestic interest rates in the run-up to the general election.

Official cost of living data for Hesse, the state in which Frankfurt is located, showed a rise of 0.9 per cent in the month to mid-July, boosting the year-on-year increase to 5.2 per cent, the highest since November, 1980. In June, the annual rise was 4.4 per cent.

The data confirmed the surge in inflation already seen in figures from two other regional states. Although this largely reflects tax increases, the Bundesbank is expected to counter inflationary pressures generated by high pay deals and mark weakness.

Bank Julius Baer expects the Bundesbank to act by the end of August, raising its discount rate by a full point and lifting its Lombard rate by half a point. The first Bundesbank meeting after the summer break is on August 15.

Economic predict inflation will stay high into the fourth quarter, with core inflation rising to 3.2 per cent from its present 2.8 per cent.

The dollar dropped sharply in late afternoon after American data showing an unexpected fall in orders for durable goods. The 1.6 per cent fall in June, after a 2 per cent rise in May, revised down heavily, raised market doubts about the strength of the recovery.

The pound dropped 1.80 pence against the mark to close at DM2.9398, suffering a brief bout of weakness on rumours, vehemently denied, that the governor of the Bank of England was resigning. But against the dollar, it gained a cent to \$1.6915.

Chambers survey predicts return to growth next year

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

THE pointers to recovery are now more pronounced but the economy remains in deep recession, with a return to growth only after mid-1992 on present trends, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

Although its second-quarter survey shows business confidence rising for two successive quarters, it notes that confidence about improved sales is still below where it was when Britain entered recession a year ago. Confidence about profits is largely unchanged.

The survey shows orders, deliveries, employment, investment, and the number of firms working at full capacity all continuing to fall.

In contrast to the government's increased optimism about recovery in the second half of this year, Miles Middleton, ABCC president, said it was "premature" to talk of recovery. He called for a

further one-point cut in interest rates to boost confidence and hasten the upturn.

The survey, based on responses from 7,420 companies, was conducted in the last three weeks of June, when most of the recent cuts in interest rates had been announced.

John Maples, economic secretary to the Treasury, challenged Mr Middleton's reading, suggesting the survey was consistent with the government view of recovery this year.

But Mr Middleton said: "We are not yet seeing a recovery, merely a tail-off in the rate of decline. This is in itself a welcome sign, but not one that indicates our problems are over, or less severe."

The signs of recovery remained faint, Mr Middleton said. "Even if the encouraging trend in the second quarter were to repeat itself, we would not see a return to full growth until the second half of 1992."

On Monday, government figures showing a surprise rebound in retail sales as well as a sharply improved trade performance in June, were widely seen as tentative evidence that the recession has bottomed out.

The ABCC, which now expects the number of unemployed to rise above 3 million in the next six to nine months, said the rising level of joblessness gave cause for concern, as it would have an impact on consumer demand.

The survey, which claims to be one of the largest regular business opinion studies in Europe, tracks a similar path to the long-established quarterly survey from the CBI, to be published next week.

Ministers will be examining the results of both surveys closely to see if their on-the-ground findings give support to the government forecast of imminent recovery.

EC to audit firms for state subsidies

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

ALL public sector companies in the EC with state holdings of more than 51 per cent will, in future, have their annual accounts checked by Brussels for illegal state subsidies.

Sir Leon Brittan, EC competition commissioner, said yesterday that the new policy was "an extremely important step" in helping to establish a level playing field for industry after 1992. He said the new procedure will assure companies where aid is eligible, and put them straight quickly where it is not.

"Up to now we have often only discovered state aids to public companies long after they have been paid. As a result, companies have sometimes had to pay back very substantial amounts of money years after the event," he said.

Most British state companies will be included in the

review, as the turnover threshold for those eligible is only £175 million.

Sir Leon said between 100 and 150 of the EC's state-controlled companies would be expected to provide their accounts to Brussels. He added that between 1985 and 1990 the Commission had discovered over £3.5 billion in state aids that it had not been told about, and that there were probably another £7 billion hidden from view.

He denied charges that the new procedure would impose unnecessary administrative burdens on companies: "I cannot believe that a major public company can receive major financial flows without knowing that it has received them - you can't just lose things in the back pocket."

Tetra Pak fined, page 22

OfTel agrees BT changes

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FINAL regulatory obstacles to the government's sale of its remaining shareholding in BT were removed yesterday when the Office of Telecommunications, the regulator, said agreement had been reached over changes in BT's licence.

BT also disclosed the surprise appointment of a new managing director. Michael Hepler, chairman and managing director of Lloyds Abbey Life, the insurance group, will take over day to day running of BT in September.

New licence details will be formally published by OfTel today. BT welcomed significant alterations to licence proposals put forward earlier this month by Sir Bryan Carsberg, head of OfTel.

The Treasury is expected to

publish shortly details of the sale of the government's final BT shareholding, planned for November. Iain Vallance, BT chairman, said the agreement gave BT "a far clearer and more predictable regulatory framework".

The deal ends the possibility of the disagreement between the two sides over access deficit contributions (ADC), limitations on what BT can charge competitors to whom it provides access to its business and domestic lines, after the government's duopoly review of the industry. This review is being referred for final decision to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Though both BT and OfTel have given ground in the

dispute, BT has probably yielded more. The main planks of Sir Bryan's abortive on ADC are still in place, especially the flexibility to waive ADC payments for the first 10 per cent of market share for each BT competitor, with an assurance to BT that it will receive contributions after its own market share has fallen below 85 per cent.

Sir Bryan has made three concessions, which he described yesterday as "not major": the waiver will not be automatic, it will expire on June 30 1997 and full ADC payments will still be due on traffic handled through the planned future equal access arrangements.

Comment, page 23

Bank acts to calm money markets

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK of England has stepped in to protect secondary financial institutions and calm the City's money markets as depositors move to place their funds with the main banks after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The Bank is believed to be urging the main clearing banks to offer financial help to small banks and finance houses who run into liquidity problems as deposits are withdrawn.

A Bank spokesman said: "We are, of course, aware of the nervousness of the wholesale deposit markets in the wake of the BCCI episode. We are monitoring the position



Governor: rumour denied and we naturally wish to ensure that any risk of contagion is contained."

Senior money market traders agree that a flight to quality has begun, albeit gradually,

among local authorities and other institutional depositors. Some even reported cases where organisations have broken deposit agreements and paid penalties to move their funds out of smaller banks and into the main clearing banks.

The main banks are also believed to have cut the interest margins they offer local authorities in response to the rise in demand.

The news comes after it emerged that the Bank of England provided help to National Home Loans, the central mortgage lender, arrange a £200 million emergency facility with the clearing banks to cover withdrawals by local authorities. Kevin Milner, NHL's chief executive,

said it had kept the Bank fully informed about the new facility, but refused to say whether it had played an active role in the negotiations.

Sterling traders report, however, that the main shift in funds is occurring steadily and only as council deposits mature.

Paul Winchester, a director of National Westminster's UK treasury department, said: "We were afraid we would see a flood of money but it has not happened yet."

A Bank of England spokesman firmly denied rumours circulating in the City yesterday that Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank's governor, is planning to resign over the BCCI affair.

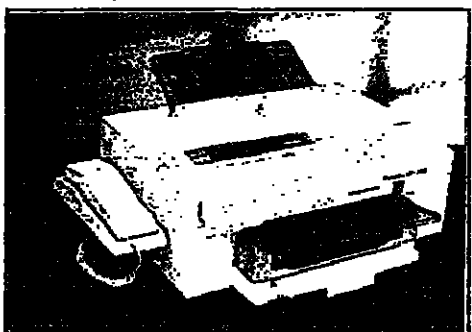
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By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

Leisure chief resigns

holders. Technology lifted pre-tax profits from £175,000 to £181,000 in the six months to end-May. The 2p interim dividend is unchanged.

The need to pay back-dated interest has led to acute financial problems for some com-

In the bidding: Christopher Bland (left) chairman, and Greg Dyke, chief executive

By MATTHEW BOND

regret the decision to float on the USM, but that "equally, it is the right decision now to move on".

cent to £1.38 million in the six months to end-June. Earnings per share increased 20 per cent to 7.1p and the interim divi-

has published at its interim stage, were even worse than the £6.5 million loss it forecast last June. They stemmed from

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

The losses were worse than expected due to a £443,000 deficit in Union's core dis-

the Chelsea Football Club ground owned by Cabra. Chelsea wants to buy the second interims for the six months to March showing pre-tax profits for the 12 months of £430,000

The BiC paper says that business involvement in the community should not be regarded as a substitute for encouraging adequate government investment. Business already contributes about £50 billion in annual taxes to the community, "and additional investment of corporate resources must therefore be justifiable in terms of business benefit". The conference is expected today to endorse specific targets, requiring greater depth and support from the business sector.

By JONATHAN PRYNN

Capita is raising £4.2 million through a placing and open offer to shareholders. Shareholders are entitled to

dividend is also up 20 per cent to 1.8p. Capita expects to pay a final of 3.6p, making 5.4p, up 20 per cent.

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

provisions of almost £13 million, most of them at Sabre Leasing, the firm's asset fi-

The discount house's loss compares with a £14.5 million

1991			Price		Gross	Yld	P/E
High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer			

202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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1997		Price		Share	Yld	
High	Low	Bid	Offer	Class	%	P/E

1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601	600	599	598	597	596	595	594	593	592	591	590	589	588	587	586	585	584	583	582	581	580	579	578	577	576	575	574	573	572	571	570	569	56
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Exchange index

[illegible]

compared with 1985 was down at 91

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0 (day's range 90.9-91.0).

RULING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
18894-118901 D	2.510-2.545	Australia	1.29
2.545-2.565		Belgium	1.30
0.531-0.538		Belgium (Cont)	1.30
570.58-571.22		Canada	1.31
0.571-0.574		Denmark	0.71
7.06-7.12		France	1.32
561.85-564.25		Germany	1.33
13.030-13.131		Hong Kong	81.1
43.19-43.26		Ireland	1.54
4.7005-4.704	9/8	Italy	1.34
5070-5107		Malaysia	2.78-2.79
2.9560-2.9582		Netherlands	1.95
0.574-0.576		Norway	0.72
2.9559-2.9581		Portugal	1.48
5.5702-5.5698		Spain	1.74
4.5284-4.5444		Sweden	1.29
6.1475-6.2275		Switzerland	1.90

8" Lloyd Bank.

Starting Spot Premium, Swiss-uk day, June 28, 1981
to August 28, 1981 Scheme 1: 12.50% Scheme 2: 8.50%
to August 28, 1981 Scheme 3: 12.50% Scheme 4: 8.50%
to August 28, 1981 Scheme 5: 12.50% Scheme 6: 8.50%

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close
33216	Dec 91	2865.0	2865.0	2862.0	2864.0
33217	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33218	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33219	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33220	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33221	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33222	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33223	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33224	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33225	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33226	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33227	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33228	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33229	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33230	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33231	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33232	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33233	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33234	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33235	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33236	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33237	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33238	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33239	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33240	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33241	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33242	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33243	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33244	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33245	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33246	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33247	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33248	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33249	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33250	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33251	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33252	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33253	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33254	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33255	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
33256	Dec 91	98.30	98.31	98.28	98.29
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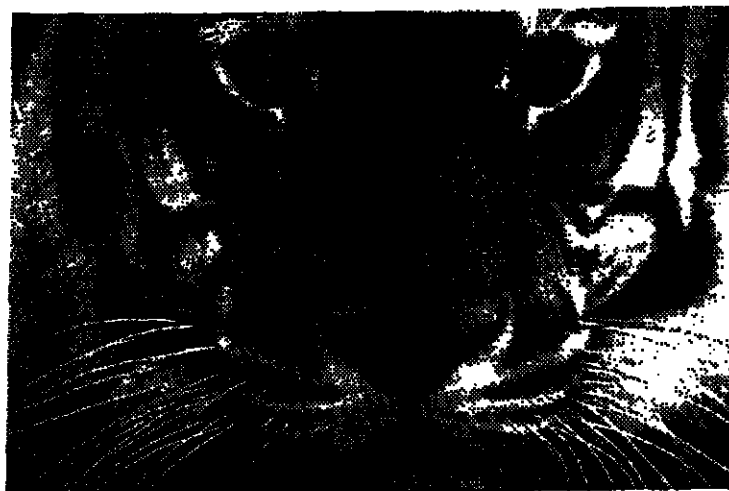
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Your Grade 7 salary in central London will be in the range £24,841 - £34,201 including performance related increments. Most posts are in a variety of government departments in London but there may be opportunities elsewhere, including Edinburgh.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 31 July 1991) write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Almonk Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1LB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 485511 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: A/82/1878

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GROUP FINANCE DIRECTOR

FCA only (Age 40+)

The Scottish Heritable Trust PLC, an industrial holding company with subsidiaries in the UK and USA producing a turnover of approximately £100m, requires a Group Finance Director who will join the main board executive management team.

The spread of trading includes the distribution of oriental carpets, manufacture of entertainment fireworks, property and, in the USA, housebuilding and quarrying.

The role encompasses all the normal financial controls, responsibility for on-going improvement of management systems and active participation in the Group's development strategy.

Applicants will be an FCA with a proven high level of commercial awareness in addition to the usual and interpersonal skills.

Please send your CV with covering letter in your own handwriting in strict confidence to:-

The Chairman
The Scottish Heritable Trust PLC
Millbank House, 18-20 Skeldergate
York YO1 1DH

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Europe (25% travel)

W London £27,30,000 + car

Due to promotion, this highly profitable, market leading FMCG Group seeks two young qualified Accountants. Project and consultancy orientated, the audit team undertakes assignments in Europe - particularly Spain, France and Belgium - and within its West London operating companies.

With the objective of increasing profitability and operational efficiency, the team is often called upon by Subsidiary Directors to review specific business problems. The role is therefore extremely varied and rewarding and offers exposure to the finance, marketing, sales and production areas.

Candidates should be qualified Accountants under 28, with experience gained in a major practice. (Those offering a European language, specifically Spanish and French, would find the role of particular interest). In addition, you should be aiming to progress to a subsidiary line management position within 12-18 months.

The company offers a comprehensive package including share options, bonus and fully expensed car. Interested applicants should contact us on 071 721 7283, or during the evenings and weekends on 081 890 1910. Alternatively send or fax your CV to:



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Job responsibilities will include preparation of management accounts, financial controls maintenance, A/P, A/R and payroll. Position reports to General Manager.

Seeking young and aggressive university graduate with entrepreneurial spirit. Must be very computer literate and flexible self-starter.

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The Defence Research Agency, Europe's largest Research Organisation with a turnover around £500m, comprises the former MOD non-Nuclear Research Establishment and is working towards Trading Fund status, when it will become fully self-accounting.

Three Chief Accountants are required to manage the comprehensive commercial accounting systems which are being installed. One post is in the Headquarters at Pyestock, Farnborough, Hants working to the DRA Finance Director. Another post is in the Aerospace Division at Farnborough working to the Divisional Finance Director. The third post is also working to the Divisional Finance Director but is located in the Electronics Division at Malvern in Worcestershire. All three appointments will face the challenging task of introducing commercial-style procedures into non-commercial environments.

Applications are invited from qualified Accountants who have experience of producing statutory accounts, managing ledgers, accounting for contracts, controlling working capital in a large organisation and possess strong interpersonal skills. They should have at least 3 years' commercial or industrial experience. The DRA is an equal opportunities employer.

For an Application Form, which must be returned by 9 August 1991, and further information on these posts, please write or phone:

Paula Annels at:

Accountancy Personnel
56A High Street
Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3RS

Tel: 0276-691889

Accountancy Personnel

Family Housing Association is one of the largest housing associations in London. With a property stock valued at over £400 million and a capital programme for 1991/92 of over £40 million.

We wish to recruit a

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(c. £26,800 - £30,800)

Reporting to the Director of Finance you will head a small section responsible for all the financial aspects of the capital programme including cash flow forecasting, the raising of private finance and capital accounting.

We are looking for a bright, qualified and computer literate accountant, with the ability to lead and motivate a small team, to take on this new post.

For an informal discussion please contact Graeme Hindes, Finance Director on 071 582 6505; for an interview pack and application form contact Ann Shepherd at the address below.

Closing date for completed applications is 9th August 1991. Interviews will be held on 19th August 1991.



For Further information please contact: 37 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DZ. Tel. 071 582 6505

Applicants from black and ethnic minority communities are particularly welcome as they are under-represented at this level within FHA. Section 38 of Race Relations Act 1976 applies.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Salary negotiable around £25k + car
Location South England

An engineering company which is part of a European group needs a Financial Controller who has initiative, drive, and the personality to motivate staff.

Only fully qualified applicants who have a sound grasp of computerised information systems and statutory accounting requirements will be considered.

The Company is anxious to attract the right person and therefore offers a negotiable salary (around £25k), a fully expensed executive car, private health, and a contributory pension scheme.

Candidates who are not qualified should not apply.

Please send a brief C.V. (maximum 3 pages) too: Box No. 4618

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Our application for grant maintained status is currently under consideration and you will be instrumental in helping us make the transition. In effect, you will be setting up a "business operation" almost from scratch - focusing on financial management and systems development, contract negotiation and business planning.

You will have an important role in our future development, particularly in income generation and resources management. You will also help us to establish a high public profile, so your creative approach, communication skills and talent for innovation will find as much scope as your business management experience.

To apply for this challenging new role please send your full curriculum vitae to Mr C Barrett, Headteacher, Oldborough Manor School, Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9QL, to arrive by Friday 9 August. Please mark your envelope Ref BDM. Interviews will be held early in September. (14584)



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FINANCE DIRECTOR (DESIGNATE)



The Birthday Company is an expanding and successful retailing Group.

We operate high quality retail outlets in some of the finest locations in the UK.

We now wish to appoint a Finance Director (Designate) to join our management group based in Epsom, Surrey.

Our ideal candidate would be 35/45 years of age with recent and directly relevant experience, including epos system.

In return, we will ensure that the benefits and prospects will be fully commensurate with the importance of this position.

Apply with CV to: D. Rose (Verd Assoc.), The Birthday Company, 1 Spread Eagle Walk, High Street, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8DN. Tel. 0372 739720

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A newly qualified ACA/ACCA from a big 6 Accounts Firm is sought by this major UK Merchant Bank to train in its dynamic Corporate Finance area. This Junior Executive level position includes a thorough training in M + A and New Issues, including Blue and Yellow Book and offers the opportunity to look at deal structure, marketing and research in a major UK based team. Aged 24-25, with a high standard of education (Degree minimum) is essential as is strong communication and analytical skills.

OPERATIONS ACCOUNTANT - FX £28,33,000 + BENS

Expanding US Commodities house seek to recruit a partially qualified accountant to install and report their operation controls. The ideal candidate will be aged to 25 with 3 years previous commercial accounting experience (preferably big 6) and a grounding within city institution in the Foreign Exchange area. Supervisory or good team management skills desirable as is the ambition and ability to initiate new systems and practices.

Please contact Ian Cook or Martin Sills on 071 638 9205.

ADMINISTRATOR/ACCOUNTS MANAGER

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On the tail of a worm

Nematodes are found everywhere. Inside our bodies, in the soil, even in tap water.

Now scientists are to carry out a survey to discover their value to the environment, reports Nigel Hawkes

Plectus parvulus: magnified photograph of a harmless worm found in fresh water and soil, but invisible to the human eye

In the Noah's Ark of nature, there are no more peculiar passengers than the nematodes. Innumerable yet neglected, these microscopic worms are now the subject of a wide-ranging international research programme, which is casting doubt on some of the most cherished ideas of ecology.

Nematodes are everywhere, from the tops of mountains to the bottom of the deepest seas. The new scientific study of Loch Ness Project Urquhart, expects to find plenty at the bottom of the loch. They are inside our bodies, in soil, even in tap water. Wherever there is life, there are nematodes. They could well be the most numerous creatures on Earth.

We do not see them because they are only half a millimetre long, and most of them do us no harm. Only experts such as Dr John Lambhead, of the Natural History Museum in Kensington, London, can tell them apart, through tiny variations in their heads, mouths, teeth, sexual organs and tails.

Huge numbers of new nematode species are now being collected and described by Dr Lambhead and colleagues at the museum and at 14 collaborating institutions in six countries. Recently, Dr Lambhead examined some sediment cores from the Pacific Ocean off San Diego, California. In a table-spoonful of sediment he found 293 worms, of 65 different species, almost none of which had been described before.

A Belgian ecologist has claimed that of every five animals on the Earth, excluding insects, four are nematodes. A single half-pint glass full of garden soil contains 4,000

to 6,000 of them. There is one that has been identified only on German beer mats, although it must, presumably, have a more conventional niche somewhere else. Dr Lambhead has named one after his wife, choosing a large carnivorous nematode to christen *Bathyporeionis walteri*.

The multinational project is intended to collect nematodes from ocean sediments throughout the world, count and classify them, and then create a model to explain some of the bewildering questions about them. For a start, why are there so many? Nature has been prodigal in creating nematodes, and there must be a reason.

Second, by working out what is the normal distribution of individuals and species in an undisturbed population, the hope is that nematodes may be used to monitor pollution and other man-made disturbances. Here the results have already shaken the notion held by many ecologists that the less

disturbed an environment is, the more species it will support.

With nematodes, it is clear that disturbed or polluted sediments often contain more, not fewer, species. Dr Lambhead began his career studying nematodes along the banks of the Clyde in Scotland, finding greater biodiversity on polluted beaches than on clean ones. The idea of using the number of species as a simple index of pollution went out of the window. Now, many ecologists believe in a more complex theory of biodiversity, originally proposed by scientists at Florida state university in Tallahassee.

The international research programme, which is supported by funds from Nato and the European Community, will produce samples from the English Channel and the eastern Atlantic, as well as from San Diego and a site off Newfoundland. The Natural History Museum is acting as the coordinating centre

for the research, while the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences at Wymondley, Surrey, is managing the programme. At the same time, the French natural history museum, acting independently, is collecting nematodes from tropical rain-forests.

Dr Lambhead explains he wants to assemble the greatest possible amount of data during the three-year life of the project, and then see whether an ecological model can be produced that explains the data from all the different habitats.

He says: "The idea is to enable us to predict what shape a community should be, how many species it should contain and how the individuals should be divided between the different species. Then we would know what is natural and what unnatural, and we could use nematodes as a measure of how disturbed an environment is. For example, we might be able to measure how much damage deep-sea mining would do."

Dr Lambhead also hopes to learn more about the nematode itself. "Why is it so successful?" he asks. "In the past we have tended to treat it as a primitive creature, but it is a highly successful design. I suspect that the nematode is a simplified animal rather than a primitive one."

The research may also determine whether nematodes or insects can claim to be Earth's most numerous class. Dr Lambhead and his colleagues, Dr Fred Wanless, are betting on the nematodes, but admit it is an open question. With roughly a million species of insects, it will be a tough target to beat.



Dr Fred Wanless (left) and Dr John Lambhead use a sieve device to recover nematodes from soil samples at the museum

Gems from Siberia

THE Siberian branch of the Soviet Institute of Geology and Geophysics has produced a new method of creating artificial diamonds. Unlike earlier methods, the technique makes diamonds at an economic price by compressing carbon at up to 1,600°C and 70,000 atmospheres pressure for several days. Nikolai Sobolev, at the institute, says that a one-carat diamond can be grown in two days and is more transparent than the real thing.

Rogue gene

THE hereditary disease Marfan syndrome, from which Abraham Lincoln may have suffered, appears to be caused by a gene responsible for producing the protein fibrillin. About one in 10,000 people suffers from the syndrome, which is characterised by great height and other abnormalities. Two groups of American scientists report in today's *Nature* magazine that the gene is on chromosome 15.

Lick that

AN AMERICAN company, Dimensional Foods Corporation, of Boston, Massachusetts, is to launch edible holograms. Images such as a rose that appears to emerge from inside a chocolate bonbon can be produced by transferring patterns on to the surface of the chocolate as it cools. The next step, says Eric Begleiter, the company president, may be lollipops with images such as cartoon characters inside them that are animated as the lollipop is twirled.

Sea probe

FLINDERS university in South Australia is to monitor sea levels around 11 Pacific nations to look for changes caused by global warming. Tidal gauges will be positioned to measure the sea level to within one millimetre, initially for five years but probably for up to 20. The aim of the project, says Professor Geoff Lennon, the head of the National Tidal Facility at the university, is to provide evidence of climatic change.

NICK NUTTALL

Robots could save farmers' bacon

Researchers are developing automated stockmen to make sure pigs stay healthy

A robot stockman able to tell a pig's weight and health at a glance is being developed by British researchers as part of a government-backed push towards the automated farm.

Life-like models of pigs and photographs of real animals are being paraded in front of the robot's camera eye in an attempt to program its computer brain to assess pig outlines, unusual behaviour and postures. The project is aimed at developing a robot that will monitor pens 24 hours a day and alert a farmer to signs of ill health among his pigs while he is occupied elsewhere on the farm. "A lot of valuable information can be learnt by just observing

animals. Good stockmen are becoming rare and cannot be with the pigs all the time," says Michael Moncaster, a member of the research team. "We are trying to develop a robot that will do what a good stockman does, but in a more quantitative way."

The work is being carried out at the Agricultural and Food Research Council's Silsoe research institute, Woburn, Bedfordshire, by a team led by Mr Moncaster, the head of information engineering. The project is

funded by the education and science department and the agriculture ministry.

The institute is a centre of excellence in the application of robots to farming with the development of robot milkmixers, robot seedling cutters and planters, and robot mushroom pickers. The memory of the robot stockman is fed with statistical information on varieties of pigs and it can calculate a weight to within 5 per cent if the animal is shown "square on" to its camera eye. The

researchers are now trying to improve the accuracy of the robot's assessment when the pig's image is presented in more complicated ways, such as occurs during listlessness, huddling and distress.

The team are confident that this can be achieved. Mr Moncaster says similar difficulties were encountered in the development of the robot micropropagator, a system that cuts stems at leaf nodes and transplants them into a growing medium. "We had to work out techniques for tracking stems even when a leaf obscures them," Mr Moncaster says.

NICK NUTTALL



Peering in: the robot's camera eye can identify signs of sickness

House of Lords

Law Report July 25 1991

House of Lords

Lorry brake silencer provision lawful

Prisoner cannot sue for rules breach

Regina v London Boroughs Transport Committee, Ex parte Freight Transport Association Ltd and Others
Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill, Lord Templeman, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Goff of Chieveley
[Speeches July 24]

The London Boroughs Transport Committee (LBTC) was entitled to require certain goods vehicles over 16.5 tonnes to have silencers fitted to their air brakes as a condition of being permitted to drive on specified streets in Greater London during prescribed hours.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the LBTC from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Staughton and Sir Roger Omond) (*The Times* October 4, 1990; [1990] 3 CMLR 495; [1991] 1 All ER 135), who had dismissed their appeal from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Hutchison) (*The Times* November 19, 1989; [1990] 1 CMLR 229; [1990] RTR 109).

The Divisional Court, in proceedings for judicial review by the Freight Transport Association Ltd, the Road Haulage Association Ltd and five transport operators, had quashed the LBTC's decision to impose the condition.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC and Mr Gerald Barling, QC, for the LBTC; Mr Anthony Lester, QC, Mr Ian Forrester, QC, of the Solicitors General, and Mr Mark Shaw for the appellants; Mr John Laws and Miss Alison Foster as *amicus curiae*.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that in the exercise of their

powers under the Road Transport Regulation Act 1984 the Greater London Council, the predecessors of the LBTC, had proposed to ban from residential streets in Greater London at night the use of heavy commercial vehicles exceeding 16.5 tonnes, reserving the right to permit some of those vehicles to be driven over some streets.

In the event, the GLC had made the LBTC (London Restriction of Goods Vehicles) Order (No 343) 1985, the administration of which had, following the abolition of the GLC, devolved on the LBTC.

When a vehicle equipped with air brakes but no suppressor was driven, the release of the brakes produced a loud, intrusive and sudden noise. A suppressor reduced the noise level by some 50 per cent.

Some vehicles incorporated a connection to which a suppressor might be fitted without difficulty at a cost of about £30. When permits had first been issued, the conditions had included: "Where not already part of the application, the applicant is asked to consider the silencing of brake air system exhaust ports..."

Not surprisingly, therefore, as from January 1, 1988, a permit for the vehicles in question contained condition 11: "By the

date specified... the applicant shall minimise the noise emitted by the air brake system by fitting equipment, or its equivalent, specified in the schedule."

The suppressors specified were recommended by the vehicle manufacturers. Mr Lester had felt unable to support the view of the Divisional Court that condition 11 was unlawful because the LBTC was exercising their powers under the 1984 Act not to promote the policy and objects of the Act but to oblige the vehicle owner to install a suppressor.

One policy and one object of the 1984 Act were, however, to protect the environment of Greater London. Condition 11 had been intended and was effective to carry out that policy and fulfil that object. The Court of Appeal had held that condition 11 was unlawful under Community law. Lord Justice Neill had held that it infringed EEC Directive 71/320 ("the Brake Directive") and that the LBTC was not permitted to reach a similar conclusion with regard to Directive 70/157 ("the Sound Level Directive").

The Brake Directive had nothing to do with sound levels and was not concerned with traffic regulation. It harmonised the technical requirements of brake devices used in vehicles throughout the Community and ensured that the brake systems of all vehicles were efficient and safe.

Article 2A provided: "No member state may refuse or prohibit the... use of a vehicle on grounds relating to its braking devices if that vehicle is equipped with the braking devices specified in annexes I-VIII and if such braking devices satisfy the requirements set out therein."

Condition 11 did not prohibit the use of a vehicle on grounds relating to its braking devices. It regulated traffic and protected the environment by providing that certain roads remained closed to certain vehicles whose brake sound levels created a nuisance unnecessarily.

Similarly, the Sound Level Directive harmonised the permissible sound level of vehicles and exhaust systems. It did not deal with the sound of compressed air brakes and was not concerned with traffic regulation. The distinction between the control of vehicles and the regulation of traffic was fully recognised by Community law.

Condition 11 was not in breach of any existing Community law. No action lay for false imprisonment against those authorities either on the ground of unlawful deprivation of residual liberty, or on the ground of subjecting to intolerable conditions.

Regina v Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prison and Others, Ex parte Hague
Weldon v Home Office
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lord Lowry
[Speeches July 24]

A prisoner could not bring an action for breach of the Prison Rules (SI 1964 No 388) which were regulatory in character and provided a framework within which the prison regime operated but they were not intended to protect prisoners against loss, injury and damage nor to give them any right of action in respect thereof.

There were no circumstances in which a convicted prisoner committed to a prison under section 12 of the Prison Act 1952 could sue the prison authorities or the Secretary of State for the Home Department for breach of the Prison Rules. No action lay for false imprisonment against those authorities either on the ground of unlawful deprivation of residual liberty, or on the ground of subjecting to intolerable conditions.

The House of Lords so held dismissing the appeal of Christopher Hague, from an order of the Court of Appeal (Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Taylor) (*The Times* June 22, 1990; [1990] 3 WLR 1210) which had allowed in part Mr Hague's appeal from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Gibson and Mr Justice Nolan) on July 28, 1989 ([1990] 2 WLR 1210) of three applications for judicial review of certain orders made by the respondents, the Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prison, Board of Visitors of Wormwood Scrubs Prison and the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The House also allowed an appeal by the Home Office from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Gibson) (*The Times* April 2, 1990; [1990] 3 WLR 465) of its appeal from Mr Assistant Recorder David Wood at Leeds County Court who on November 22, 1988, had dismissed his appeal from an order dated October 3, 1988, of Mr Registrar Bower who had refused to strike out a claim for damages for false imprisonment made by the plaintiff, Mr Kenneth Weldon.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC and Mr Timothy Owen for Mr Hague; Mr John Laws, Mr David Pannick and Mr Robert Jay for the respondents in the Hague appeal and the Home Office; Mr David Harris, QC and Mr Timothy Owen for Mr Weldon.

LORD ACKNER said that a person lawfully held in custody who was subjected to intolerable conditions, must, of course, have a remedy against his custodian. That could include: (a) an action in tort against a prison authority for damages for negligence where, for example, the intolerable conditions caused him to suffer injury to his health; (b) where the facts fitted, an action in tort for damages for assault; (c) where malice could be established, an action for misfeasance in the exercise of a public office; and (d) the termination of such conditions by judicial review.

His Lordship, however, accepted for the reasons stated by Lord Jauncey that an otherwise lawful imprisonment was not rendered unlawful by reason only of the conditions of detention, thereby providing a prisoner with a potential action for the tort of false imprisonment. Accordingly, his Lordship's dictum in the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *Middleweek v Chief Constable of Merseyside* ([1990] 3 WLR 481, 487) was erroneous.

His Lordship was not prepared to accept that as a matter of general principle a person who was lawfully deprived of part only of his liberty, could not sue in tort for false imprisonment, if unlawfully deprived of the residue or balance of that liberty.

While a prisoner had no residual liberty *vis-à-vis* the governor, his Lordship would not accept that he had no remedy against a fellow prisoner who locked him in some confined space.

LORD JAUNCEY said that Mr Hague was serving a 15-year prison sentence. He sought judicial review of a decision of the Deputy Governor of Parkhurst Prison to segregate him and thereafter to transfer him to Wormwood Scrubs for continued segregation. He claimed certain declarations and also damages for false imprisonment.

Mr Weldon was serving a prison sentence. He claimed damages for false imprisonment in respect of his confinement overnight in a strip cell in Leeds Prison. The Court of Appeal dismissed the Home Office appeal against a refusal to strike out the claim on the ground that the facts disclosed an arguable case of false imprisonment either on the ground that he had been unlawfully deprived of his residual liberty or that he had been kept in intolerable conditions.

Authorities showed that it must always be a matter for consideration whether the legislature intended that private law rights of action should be conferred on individuals in respect of breaches of the relevant statutory provision.

The fact that a particular provision was intended to protect certain individuals was not of itself sufficient to confer private law rights of action on them; something more was required to show that the legislature intended such confinement: see *Groves v Wimborne* (Lord) ([1989] 2 QB 402); *Cutler v Wandsworth Stadium Ltd* ([1949] AC 398); *Lorha Ltd v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd* (No 2) ([1952] AC 173) and *Calveley v Chief Constable of the Merseyside Police* ([1989] AC 1228).

The Prison Act 1952 was designed to deal with the administration of prisons and the management and control of prisoners. It covered such wide-ranging matters as central administration, prison officers, confinement and treatment of prisoners. Section 47 empowered the secretary of state to make rules in relation to many of the matters with which the Act was concerned. But there was nothing in any of the provisions of the Act to suggest that Parliament intended thereby to confer on prisoners a cause of action sounding in damages in respect of a breach of those provisions.

Mr 1984 Rules. Those rules were wide-ranging in their scope covering a mass of matters relevant to the administration and good government of a prison. Many of those did not directly relate to prisoners and those which did were never intended to confer private law rights in the event of a breach. The rules were regulatory in character; they provided a framework within which the prison regime operated but they were not intended to protect prisoners against loss, injury and damage nor to give them a right of action in respect thereof.

If, however, a prisoner suffered in health as a result of segregation contrary to rules he would in all probability have a right of action in negligence against the prison authorities.

If, as in the case of Mr Hague, he suffered no damage to health then a breach of the rules would not result in loss or injury of the kind which normally flowed from a breach of statutory duty and which the statute was designed to prevent: see Lord Bridge of Harwich in *P v Liverpool Daily Post and Echo Newspapers plc* ([1991] 2 WLR 513, 524).

In relation to false imprisonment, the question was whether there were any circumstances in which a convicted prisoner committed to a prison in terms of section 12 of the 1952 Act could sue the prison authorities for damages for false imprisonment.

False imprisonment was defined in *Clerk & Lindell on Torts* (16th edition (1989) pp972-973, para 17-15) as "complete deprivation of liberty for any time, however short, without lawful cause": see also

Meering v Grahame-Smith Aviation Co Ltd ([1919] 122 LT 44, 51, 53).

For Mr Weldon it was said that his removal to and confinement in a strip cell constituted the tort. For Mr Hague the Court of Appeal held that his continued segregation in prison to which he was transferred on the orders of the governor of the transferring prison was unlawful and in breach of rule 43. That unlawful segregation, it was argued, amounted to false imprisonment.

Thus in each case what was said to constitute false imprisonment was not the confinement in the particular prison but rather the treatment therein. The alteration in the conditions infringed the residual liberty possessed by the two men and thus constituted false imprisonment.

That proposition precluded a prisoner lawfully confined in prison from *vis-à-vis* the governor, residual liberty which could be protected by private law remedies. But a prisoner was lawfully confined in prison for the purposes of the 1952 Act and the 1964 Rules. His whole life was regulated by the regime. He had no freedom to do what he wanted, when he wanted. His liberty was governed by the prison regime.

In the Court of Appeal in the Weldon case, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson (at p479) had concluded that Mr Weldon's allegation included "an assertion of fact capable of constituting such intolerable conditions of detention as to render the detention unlawful within the principle stated by Lord Justice Ackner in *Middleweek*".

But to say that detention became unlawful when the conditions thereof became intolerable was to confuse conditions of confinement with nature of confinement and to add a qualification to section 12(1).

If a prisoner at any time had no liberty to be in any place other than where the regime permitted, he had no liberty capable of deprivation so as to constitute the tort of false imprisonment. An alteration of conditions therefore deprived him of no liberty because he had none. The dictum of Lord Justice Ackner in *Middleweek* was an incorrect statement of the law.

Lord Bridge and Lord Goff gave concurring speeches and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Southwark; Treasury Solicitor: R. M. Broadie & Co, Liverpool.

Correction

In *Irish Aerospace (Belgium) NV v European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation* (*The Times* July 18) junior counsel for the CAA was Mr Peter Havery.

Power to reduce council grant over school

Regina v Department of Education and Science, Ex parte Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Otton
[Judgment July 19]
The Department of Education and Science had power to determine that the share of the local education authority's centrally provided services for an "opted" voluntarily aided school which had been formerly voluntary aided, included certain amounts for which the school had not been formerly entitled, with the consequence that moneys were deducted from the authority's rate support grant.

Mr Justice Otton so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application for judicial review brought by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council against the decision of the Secretary of State for Education and Science in a letter dated October 18, 1989 that the annual maintenance grant for December 4, 1989 to March 30,

1990 in respect of Old Swinford Hospital School, Stourbridge, would be £598,609 to be recouped from Dudley by deductions from its rate support grant for that period.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Richard McManus for the council; Miss Presley Baxendale for the Department of Education and Science.

MR JUSTICE OTTON said that once an annual maintenance grant had been determined by the secretary of state, it was paid directly to an opted-out school. The Department of Education and Science then recouped the grant from the local education authority which in turn raised the money through the community charge.

Dudley asserted that the secretary of state had erred in law in including amounts in the grant for structural repairs and payments in respect of disadvantaged Commonwealth immigrant pupils under section 11 of the Local Government Act 1966 when the school, having been voluntarily aided, had pre-

viously had no share of or allocation from the local education authority's budget for such items.

It was submitted on behalf of Dudley that if the school would not have had any share in the planned local education authority expenditure on centrally provided services, the secretary of state had no power to award the school a grant in respect of a non-existent share.

The amount the school received was not dependent upon nor determined by the former status of the school. Whether it was previously a voluntary aided or a county school was no consequence when the Department of Education and Science was determining its share of the whole. There was no challenge to the formula nor as to how it was compiled, nor to its constituent parts.

The language of regulation 3(4) was clear and unequivocal. There was no ambiguity to permit a purposive interpretation as suggested by Mr Beloff.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr L. T. Barnfield, Dudley; Treasury Solicitor.

How plagues became a thing of the past

Many of the most important advances in world health during the past 100 years have been largely the work of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, now celebrating its centenary. The celebrations should be shared by some of the poorest countries, where the toll of such diseases as cholera, typhoid and diphtheria would be even heavier but for the Lister's contributions to prevention and treatment.

When the history of 20th century medicine is complete, perhaps the biggest triumph to be recorded will be the eradication of smallpox. The colossal exercise carried out by the World Health Organisation (WHO), culminating in the last naturally occurring case being detected in October 1977, owed some of its success to the Lister.

Such a victory could not have been foreseen during the 1880s, when some of the city fathers of London decided to set up a research centre to match the Pasteur Institute, which had opened in Paris and was looked on with envy by British doctors.

The Lord Mayor, Sir James Whitehead, had been to see the Pasteur Institute. He determined that anything Paris could do, London could do at least as well. Plans were drawn up, £60,000 was raised, and in July 1891 the Lister Institute opened in Chelsea, west London. It was named, appro-

The Lister, which celebrates its centenary this month, now provides £750,000 for projects every year, Thomson Prentice writes

riately, after Joseph Lister. If Louis Pasteur was the hero of French medical science, Lister was his British counterpart. Pasteur, born in 1822, was one of the founders of bacteriology. Lister, born in 1827, was the first to develop antiseptics, a life-saving advance of immeasurable value in preventive medicine.

The institute was, and remains, dedicated to preventive medicine. A hundred years ago, there were few answers to the plagues of measles, smallpox, cholera and typhoid, which were common in many parts of Victorian Britain.

The institute quickly became a magnet for some of the most talented, determined and ambitious researchers of the day. One of their first challenges was diphtheria, a common cause of childhood deaths and a scourge in London. The bacterium had been identified but it was the work of Sir Marc Ruffer, the institute's first director, that led to the development in Britain of a diphtheria anti-toxin.

The institute's existence was not universally welcomed in the early years. Its neighbours in Chelsea

wanted it closed because they saw it as a breeding ground for germs that might escape. Anti-vivisectionists alleged it was a centre for barbarous experiments on animals. However, the Lister's reputation for progress in public health rose rapidly and dwarfed such prejudices. It continued to gain in stature after the turn of the century, drawing scientists from many countries, who wanted to develop their skills in its laboratories.

Dame Harriette Chick, the first woman on the staff, was an expert in diseases caused by vitamin deficiencies, especially rickets in children. Sir Macfarlane Burnet, an Australian virologist, worked at the Lister in the Twenties. He was the first to show that there were several types of polio virus and was awarded the Nobel prize for medicine in 1960.

Dr Emmy Klieneberger-Nobel was a pioneer in research into mycoplasmas, micro-organisms that are causative agents in human, animal and plant diseases. She arrived at the institute in the

Thirties, having fled from Nazi Germany.

In the Fifties, Lister researchers, led by Leslie Collier, a bacteriologist, discovered how to freeze-dry smallpox vaccine, allowing it to be transported all over the world, a vital contribution to the WHO's eradication programme.

The Lister's Chelsea laboratories were closed in 1975 because their grants were exhausted. However, the property's value was such that the Lister was able to invest the proceeds from the sale and use them to fund research projects in universities and other establishments throughout Britain. Funding now is £750,000 a year.

The Lister exists today only as an administrative office in Stanmore, north London. As an influence on medical research, however, it is ubiquitous.

"We are proud that we were the very first such centre in Britain," says Gordon Roderick, its secretary. "We were in business 30 years before the Medical Research Council and we have a unique list of achievements stretching back 100 years. Now we have great confidence in some of the brilliant young scientists whose work we are supporting. They are like members of a family to us, and we hold reunions with them to catch up on their progress, exchange ideas and share in some of the excitement of their ideas."



Great men meet: Lister receives honours at the Sorbonne, with white-bearded Pasteur in attendance



Gordon Roderick: "We made more productive use of our money"

Scientists and grocers unite in the cause

How the institute that aims to prevent disease chooses its experts

A MEMBERSHIP of 65, a governing body of 12, a scientific advisory committee and a paid staff of three make up the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine. By any standards, that is a small group for an organisation that gives away nearly £750,000 a year in research grants.

The management structure stems from 1975, when the governors gave up the Lister laboratories. "We thought we could use our money more productively, research-wise," says Gordon Roderick, the governors' secretary and clerk. The governors decided to invest the institute's assets and fund post-doctoral research.

The institute was set up by a

council representing various universities, royal colleges and the British Medical Association. Thus, it has representative members from the universities of Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Manchester and Oxford. The BMA, the royal colleges of physicians, surgeons and veterinary surgeons, the Royal Society, the Royal Agricultural Society and the Worshipful Company of Grocers are members.

Why grocers? Mr Roderick explains: "When the appeal for funds was launched in 1889-90, the Company of Grocers was very

generous, so we invited it to become a member. Then in 1969-70, we were putting up a new building and it paid for the lecture hall, which was called the Grocers' Theatre. It is very good to us."

Every governor becomes and may remain a member, as do senior members of staff. Scientific committee members are eligible after 12 months, but only at the governors' invitation. Members meet once a year, at the June annual meeting. The membership elects six of the governors, who retire by rotation after six years, although all are eligible for re-

election until the age of 75. Of the remaining governors, one is nominated by Lord Iveagh, the descendant of an original benefactor, and one by the Royal Society, and four are co-opted by the governors. Governors—eminent, unpaid volunteers—meet three or four times a year under Professor Geoffrey Dawes's chairmanship.

The governors elect the scientific committee of six members plus a chairman, who serve for six years and interview potential fellows. These are outstanding in their fields and most are Fellows of the Royal Society.

David Hobson, the treasurer, has served on the governing body for six years. He is a retired senior partner of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the Lister's auditors, and as the chairman of the managing is at the hub of the financing. His job is "making sure we have enough money to pay for our fellowships and that our investments are properly managed".

PAT BLAIR

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Covers that help to save lives

Pearce Wright
traces the history
of drapes, now
vital equipment
for the surgeon

To most people drapes mean heavy window or theatre curtains. For surgeons, they have a special significance, because they form one of the primary barriers to prevent potentially lethal infections in their patients' wounds.

Doctors are seen in soap operas scrubbing up with antiseptic soap before donning sterile gowns and gloves, the surgeon's instruments are boiled or dry-heated in a steriliser to kill bacteria, and heat-sensitive materials are kept in germicidal solutions. Equally strict measures are applied to the third barrier against infection. This barrier consists of the drapes, or fabrics, designed in various shapes and sizes to cover the patient, exposing just the area where the surgeon is to operate.

Drapes must be bacteria-resistant, absorbent, strong and soft, and easy to handle, wash and sterilise. For decades they have been made from linen. Now, materials technologists at medical suppliers such as Smith & Nephew have produced new disposable fabrics with even better characteristics.

Although made from different materials, drapes are descended directly from an



Today: in this operation, to keep everything free from infection, drapes cover all parts of the body except the area where microsurgery is performed

invention 125 years ago by Joseph Lister, the architect of modern surgery.

Lister discovered the principles and established the practice of scientific cleanliness when he conceived the idea of antiseptics, which makes surgery safe.

As extraordinary as it may seem now, the introduction of

antiseptics was a bitterly fought battle. Lister was compelled to leave Glasgow for Edinburgh because of his outspokenness about conditions in the public wards. He succeeded his father-in-law, James Syme, as the professor of clinical surgery at Edinburgh. However, stimulated by the published papers, others followed in

Lister's footsteps in applying the principles of antiseptics. The battle was a quarrel between two generations. The younger side was laying the foundations of a scientific approach to medicine, with the inevitable undermining of an older view of the clinical art. The old guard still clung to notions of spontaneous genera-

tion to explain the complications of surgery and the origin of life forms.

As more and more lives were saved by aseptic surgery, the outcome of the dispute was inevitable. Lister was applauded by grateful patients, including Queen Victoria, academically rewarded by his medical colleagues and recognised by a grateful nation with a baronetcy in 1897.

He was influenced strongly by his father, a wine merchant by trade, but a formidable microscopist, who invented the achromatic lens and improved the compound microscope, eliminating optical distortion so that minute objects could be seen more clearly.

Similarly, Lister paid generous tribute to the support of his wife, who assisted in his experiments. Yet he became one of the last defenders of the medical profession against female marauders.

The history of science and technology contains a number of giants who are household names: Newton, Watt, Marconi and Einstein.

In contrast, people are less familiar with the names of the physicians responsible for the great advances in medicine. Perhaps they know of Hippocrates and his reputed oath, Fleming for penicillin and Barnard for heart transplants. Certainly Lister is one of the great names.

Yet the greatest single medical discovery of all time came from a chemist, Louis Pasteur. From his discoveries about the way micro-organisms controlled fermentation, he devel-

oped the germ theory of disease and the idea of the spread of infections.

Lister's story is equally well known. He was appointed the professor of surgery in Glasgow in 1860 and set out to solve the most urgent, perennial surgical problem, the sepsis that ravaged the crowded wards of the voluntary hospitals.

At the time nobody knew why so many people died from post-operative complications, especially after amputations and the treatment of compound fractures.

Lister was following Pasteur's work. He understood the staggering implications of the germ theory for controlling disease. He deduced that the tragic complications of surgical operations and accidents were caused by microbes flourishing in devitalised tissues, and that these microbes could be prevented from having their deadly effect by the use of chemical solutions called antiseptics.

These deductions showed Lister that chemical disinfection should be introduced into the operating theatre and that the dressings used for covering the wounds should also be impregnated.

In 1865, an 11-year-old boy, James Greenless, was the first of 11 victims of compound fractures to whom Lister applied his chemical principles of antiseptic medicine. The procedures provoked a storm of controversy when the operations were described in *The Lancet* in 1867.

Dog bite brought in research funds

A grateful Guinness is remembered for giving £250,000 to the institute

THE future of the Lister Institute for Preventive Medicine was secured because a 19th century groom was bitten by a rabid dog.

The stableman, Jim Jackson, worked at Elvedon House, in Suffolk, for the Guinness family, which founded the Dublin brewery. However, Jackson had to go to Paris for his treatment, to the Pasteur Institute, which at the time was doing research into hydrophobia.

The groom subsequently lived to be 89 and the incident was not forgotten by Edward Cecil Guinness, afterwards the first Earl of Iveagh.

When the London-based Lister Institute for Preventive Medicine made an appeal for funds two years later, Guinness thought back to his groom's experience and made the £250,000 endowment that in 1898 assured the establishment of an annual income of £7,000 for medical research in Britain.

For Guinness to make such a generous gift was entirely in character. Guinness was born in Dublin in 1847 and had taken an interest in his native city and its people from his youth.

Moreover, as Guinness lived for much of the time at Elvedon, England also benefited from his generosity.

In 1889, he withdrew from the immediate management of the Arthur Guinness, Son &

Co brewery, although he remained as the chairman. He marked the event by giving £50,000 to Dublin and £200,000 to London for housing to be built at rents within reach of the very poor.

Soon afterwards, Dublin received another £250,000 for workmen's dwellings.

The result was, as the obituary in *The Times* reported after Lord Iveagh's death in 1927, "perhaps the greatest of all benefits which he conferred on Dublin". The obituary explained: "It meant the clearing of an insanitary area of more than seven acres in the heart of the city."

Lord Iveagh equipped, sent out and maintained the Irish field hospital during the South African war. Whether it was in private homes, hospitals or educational and research institutions, Lord Iveagh was renowned as a philanthropist. However, *The Times* reported that he was "the most modest of men".

Today, the family maintains its interest in and connection with the Lister Institute.

Lord Iveagh, the first earl's great-grandson, has chosen to take up a nominated seat on the governing body, while Lord Iveagh's cousin, Edward Guinness, has been an elected governor for more than 20 years.

PAT BLAIR

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The good lord: Iveagh's patronage is continued today



Yesterday: Lister, who made aseptic surgery possible, in a ward with his assistants at King's College hospital, London

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Crime-busting DNA

Field Marshal Lord Bramall called genetic fingerprinting "the greatest single breakthrough in forensic science this century". He offered his description last year when presenting the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement to the Lister Institute and to the ICI company, Cellmark Diagnostics.

Only seven years ago, Alec Jeffreys, the professor of genetics at Leicester university, developed a scientific test that can be applied to DNA, the genetic material of living cells, which is unique in every individual, and can conclusively determine family relationships and match suspects to crimes. Today, DNA or genetic fingerprinting forms the basis of a multi-million-pound industry and is used worldwide in such varied fields as paternity tests, immigration cases, criminal investigations and animal breeding confirmation.

Professor Jeffreys, then a genetics lecturer, was one of the first five fellows appointed under the Lister's scheme. The breakthrough came within two years, in September 1984. "We immediately applied for a patent in this country," recalls Gordon Roderick, the Lister's secretary. It was the first time the institute had applied for a patent.

To prevent it lapsing, a worldwide patent must be

Genetic fingerprinting has helped to convict killers. Pat Blair describes the method that won a Queen's Award

applied for within 12 months. The Lister, therefore, applied. "In the meantime we carried out market surveys in Britain and the United States to see whether it was a viable proposition, although we were sure it was," Mr Roderick says. In June 1986, the Lister signed an agreement with Cellmark Diagnostics to exploit the process. A year later the business was set up.

Police forces were among the pioneers in using the technique. They first employed it in October 1985, during the hunt in Leicestershire for Colin Pitchfork, the rapist and killer of two schoolgirls, while ownership of the process was still being established. The technique helped to clear a man who had confessed to the second of the two murders.

Then came the first mass DNA screening of 5,500 men to find the killer.

In November 1987 the Bristol rapist, Robert Melias, became the first man anywhere to be convicted through DNA matching of a semen sample on his victim's petticoat with his blood. Pitchfork's conviction came two months later.

The tests have since been used by police in many countries. Blood and semen, stained material, hair roots or tissue left at the scene of crime can provide cells for the tests.

Sophisticated microbiology techniques are used to identify the repetitive sequences within the DNA molecule that are unique to individuals. They are located using probes, small pieces of synthetic DNA, one after another, to build up the banded pattern of one person that can be read off against that of another.

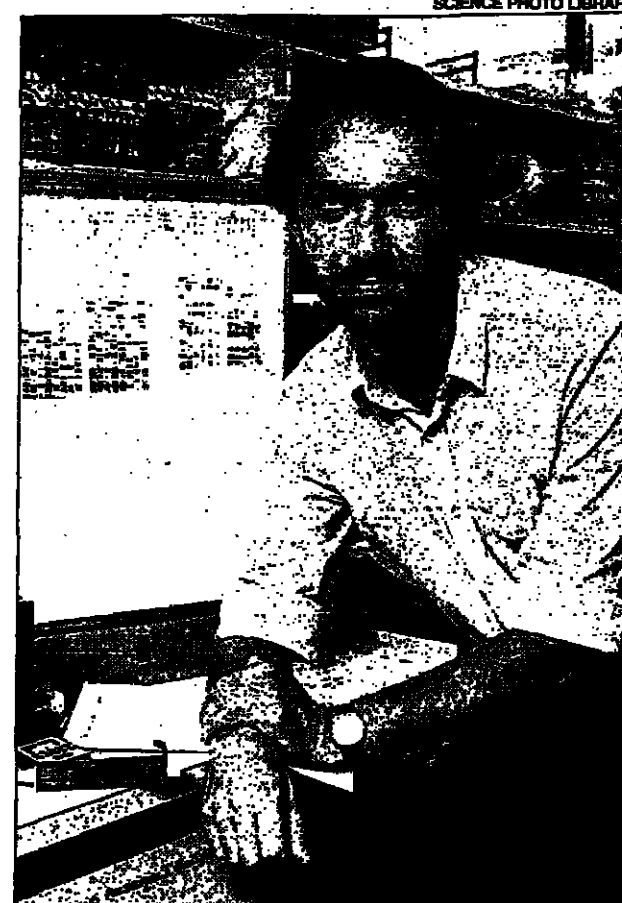
According to the number of bands located, the odds against a chance match can be as high as a million million to one. Like fingerprints, they are unique. DNA profiles are accepted by Home Office immigration officers as conclusive evidence of relationships. The first case featuring DNA profiling was in immigration, in April 1985. Two months later the method was used in a paternity case. Cellmark's tests are available, at £140 a sample, to private individuals seeking to prove, or disprove, family links.

More than a year ago, Professor Jeffreys was asked to determine whether bones in a Brazilian cemetery were those of Dr Josef Mengele, the Nazi war criminal. He has extracted enough DNA from the remains but still needs to match it with blood from Mengele's son, Rolf, who has not yet agreed to give a sample.

In a scientifically similar case, enough DNA was extracted from a woman's skeleton in Cardiff to match her parents' profiles and confirm, with 99.9 per cent certainty, the identity of Karen Price, in the "body in the carpet case". Karen had been killed and buried eight years earlier, but the DNA evidence helped to secure a murder conviction in February.

On the basis of the technique's exploitation the Lister applied jointly with Cellmark for the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. "We were delighted to have it, thrilled to bits," Mr Roderick says. The same reaction came from Cellmark, which has the exclusive licence to exploit the Jeffreys technology and is developing the technique fast.

Previously the tests, which have to be performed sequentially, would have taken at least a month. The process has since been reduced to one or two weeks. "There is the possibility of working in days now," says David Harnstone, Cellmark's sales and market-



On the case: Professor Jeffreys with DNA examples

ing director. Meanwhile, Professor Jeffreys is still discovering applications for DNA typing, including the possibility of setting up a DNA bank, similar to the fingerprint register used in criminal cases.

Another of the uses is in conservation biology. Professor Jeffreys says: "One major application is in the whole area of animal, bird and plant identification. Of trying to understand how animals and plants breed in the wild. This is of critical importance in trying to understand evolution. If you cannot identify offspring and parents in a natural population, you cannot even start."

"With this technology, one can now do that."



Dr Anne McLaren: "A fellowship can release university people from teaching"

Flair and originality are the key elements for applicants

Fellowships can lead to a dream fulfilled

THE Lister Institute places advertisements in October every year inviting medical scientists to apply for its fellowships. Last time, it attracted 175 enquiries and 55 subsequent applications from senior figures for the five fellowships, which last five years (Pat Blair writes).

The applications came from, among others, biochemists, geneticists, doctors and immunologists. The response showed the keen competition in the upper

reaches of Britain's research world. There have been 40 fellows since the scheme was introduced in October 1982. Twenty-four are at present funded, and four more are due to take up appointments on October 1. The Lister undertakes to pay the fellow's salary and his or her employer's costs, plus an allowance up to £7,000 a year.

Applications must be received by the Lister by the end of January. These are sent to members of the scientific advisory committee, who compile a shortlist and interview the 12 finalists every April.

At the final selection, the choice is more between candidates than projects. "We are looking for good people with a grasp of their subject and a certain amount of flair and originality," says Dr Anne McLaren, the committee chairman.

"People may already be in university jobs, but having to do a lot of teaching. If they get a fellowship, then the university money that would have gone towards their salary can be used to take on a temporary lecturer, releasing them from the teaching element. That is quite a strong consideration in our minds."

The point is endorsed by Professor Alec Jeffreys, of Leicester university, who discovered DNA fingerprinting (see above). "My life was being increasingly devoted to teaching and administration," he says. "It was getting more difficult to carry out really intensive research."

The fellowship award freed him from those constraints. "I do not think I would ever have had the time and freedom to think sideways to get us to that sort of development," he says.

"I owe a great deal to the Lister Institute and our relationship has been very close and fruitful. It has been a superb time and I have enjoyed every minute."

"It is a marvellous organisation to be with."

Since the Lister embarked on patenting discoveries, it now shares any royalties with universities and is excited about possible future discoveries.

Gordon Roderick, the Lister's secretary, says: "We have agreements that, where our fellows have come up with an invention, and where we have asked the university to exploit it, we will get some royalty income from it."

Out of the 40 fellows elected since the introduction of the scheme in 1982, nine have been appointed to professorial chairs. They are: Alec Jeffreys, Leicester university; Barry Halliwell, King's College London; Chris Higgins, Dundee university; Graham Boulnois, Leicester university; Stephen Yeaman, Newcastle upon Tyne university; Dennis Burton, Sheffield university; Jeff Almond, from Leicester university to Reading university; Barry Potter, from Leicester university to Bath university; and Leszek Borysiewicz, from Cambridge university to the University of Wales college of medicine, Cardiff.

Pioneers in the science of prevention

Thousands of kidney patients depend on dialysis machines. Lethal impurities are cleared from their blood while they await a donor organ. Although kidney machines are among modern medicine's high-tech creations, the dialysis principle has been crucial on a smaller scale to basic research for more than a century. Nobel prize-winning experiments in biochemistry by Sir Arthur Harden, after he joined the Lister Institute in 1897, used dialysis to separate molecules in fluids.

Harden was one of many eminent scientists following in Joseph Lister's footsteps, and many others continue today. Their achievements include those of Sir Charles Martin, who led the institute's researches into the great Indian plague. The plague began before the turn of the century and by 1903 was killing 500,000 a year.

A brilliant investigation of field and laboratory experiments and epidemiology involving thousands of door-to-door enquiries eventually revealed how rats, fleas and humans were linked in the spread of plague.

The first woman on the Lister staff, Dame Harriette Chick, died recently, aged 102. Under Martin's encouragement, she began to investigate the process of disinfection by chemicals and heat. The purpose was to decide on the most effective agents and methods. The studies were a classic contribution to the young science of bacteriology and involved pioneering work on the nature of proteins and how they differed in the way they were destroyed by disinfectants.

Dame Harriette turned from bacteriology to nutrition during the first world war and became part of the team that later showed the dietary and environmental factors that could prevent the life-long crippling effect of rickets in children.

In 1951, Leslie Collier, a bacteriologist, produced a new smallpox vaccine. The preparation depended on a freeze-drying process in which the fluid containing the protective cowpox virus, the basis of the vaccine, is exposed to a vacuum that removes moisture.

Another landmark in immuno-chemistry was among Professor Walter Morgan's successes. He worked with one of the most dangerous micro-organisms, the Shiga dysentery bacillus, to show that just a portion of the cell wall was associated with an organism's virulence. Morgan unravelled a general charac-

teristic of bacteria and the infections they cause and opened a new approach to making vaccines.

Harden joined the Lister as a relatively seasoned research worker. He had graduated at Owens College, Manchester, obtained a doctorate in Germany and returned to Owens to teach, research and write textbooks for ten years.

He then became fascinated by the implications of a discovery by Eduard Buchner, a brilliant German chemist studying fermentation.

The conventional view was that the chemical processes converting sugar to alcohol were inseparable from living yeast organisms. Harden was intrigued by Buchner's discovery that a "dead" chemical extract from yeast cells could apparently stimulate fermentation of sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide just as the intact living yeast organism would have done. The agent in the extract, or ferment, promoted the chemical changes of fermentation without changing itself.

The finding opened the door to enzyme chemistry, which was to have profound benefits for medicine.

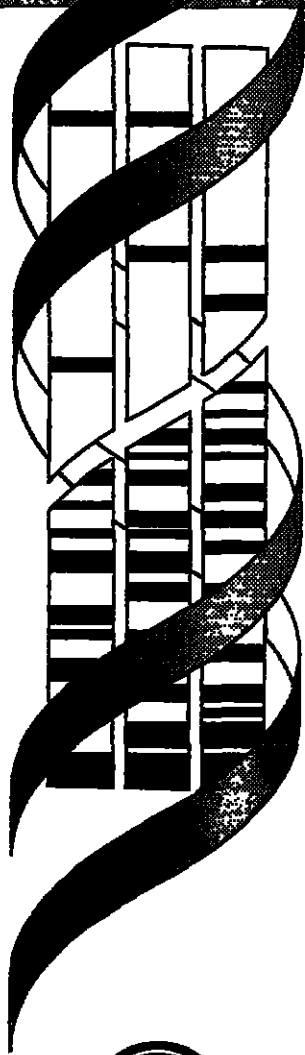
Next, Harden used the dialysis method to discover that the yeast enzyme consisted of two parts, one smaller-molecular in nature than the other. Further tests showed the larger one was protein and the smaller one not. The results with the small molecule were the first example of a coenzyme, a small molecule not protein in nature, but necessary to the activity of an enzyme, itself as protein.

Later research elsewhere showed the vitamins necessary to life form portions of coenzymes. As enzymes are needed only in small amounts because they are catalysts, coenzymes and vitamins are needed only in small quantities. This explains why a substance may be essential but need be present in the diet in only the tiniest traces.

Harden then noticed something even more fascinating. He found that the yeast enzyme could also cause other molecules to form temporarily with sugar molecules if inorganic phosphate was added to the yeast solution. The finding was the beginning of the study of intermediary, or short-lived, compounds in living tissue, still one of biochemistry's most lively aspects of research. Harden's work revealed the role of the phosphate group of molecules in delivering energy to any part of the body when needed.

PEARCE WRIGHT

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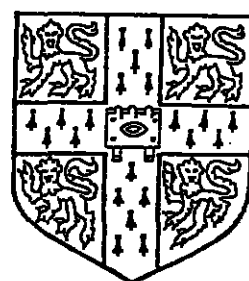
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The 1992 Summer Games begin one year today. *The Times* examines the state of readiness for the ultimate sporting challenge

Britain prepared to tackle the best in Barcelona

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Great Britain team for the 1992 Olympics, which open a year today in Barcelona, will be the best prepared ever. It will need to be. Despite eastern European countries' new restrictions on state spending on sport, the standards will amply fulfil the motto of the Games: Citius, altius, fortius (faster, higher, stronger).

Dick Palmer, Britain's *chef de mission* for the Games, says: "In the long run, the withdrawal of state support will clearly affect former communist countries. However, for Barcelona, many of the advantages they have had in the past will remain important. These include identification of talent at a young age, and their development of this talent."

Palmer considers East Germany a special case because, unlike other former communist countries, it has been absorbed into another country. However, even if a combined German team will be less formidable than two separate countries, other nations are improving their standards in a wide variety of sports. To meet this challenge, the British Olympic

Association (BOA) has extended its brief so it can help the governing bodies in their preparation. There were, for the first time, four Olympic training camps in 1990, and four more are being held this year.

Palmer says: "The BOA is also ensuring that the team we send to Barcelona will be of genuine Olympic standard, that everyone

has the ability to perform with distinction. In the past, some governing bodies have wanted to field competitors in all events or classes. This time they will not be permitted to do so, unless the individuals are of sufficient calibre."

On November 11, the BOA will launch a national appeal for at least £2 million, the same as 1988.

Although Barcelona is closer than Seoul and reduces the cost of air travel, the recession is not going to make fund-raising easy.

The BOA hopes it will raise more money through sponsorship — payment from companies being permitted to use the Olympic symbols — and through merchandising, which it is trying for the first time.



Backley carrying the best hopes of golden glory

BY THE time of the Barcelona Olympics, British athletics will probably not quite be ready to win as many medals as in Los Angeles in 1984, but they may still come to be regarded as Britain's finest Games (David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, writes). At the very least, there should be an improvement on the eight medals won in Seoul three years ago.

The Soviet and East German boycott of Los Angeles devalued medals in many events. Britain won 16, but it can be argued that the 12 taken in Tokyo in 1964, when there were fewer events, represents Britain's greatest Olympic success.

Britain does not have a reigning Olympic champion. Seoul was a reminder, through Fatima Whitbread especially, that gold is never guaranteed. However, given 12 months of good health and training, Britain has good chances in eight events: Roger Black (400 metres), Tom McKean (800 metres), Peter Elliott (1,500 metres), Colin Jackson and Tony Jarrett (110 metres hurdles), the men's sprint relay team, Yvonne Murray (3,000 metres), Liz McColgan (10,000 metres) and, best of all, Steve Backley (javelin).

Black is listed on the assumption that Michael Johnson stays faithful to the 200 metres, his choice for the world championships in Tokyo next month. The timetable, as at Tokyo, precludes one athlete from contesting both events.

McKean has yet to win anything significant outside Europe, but has developed

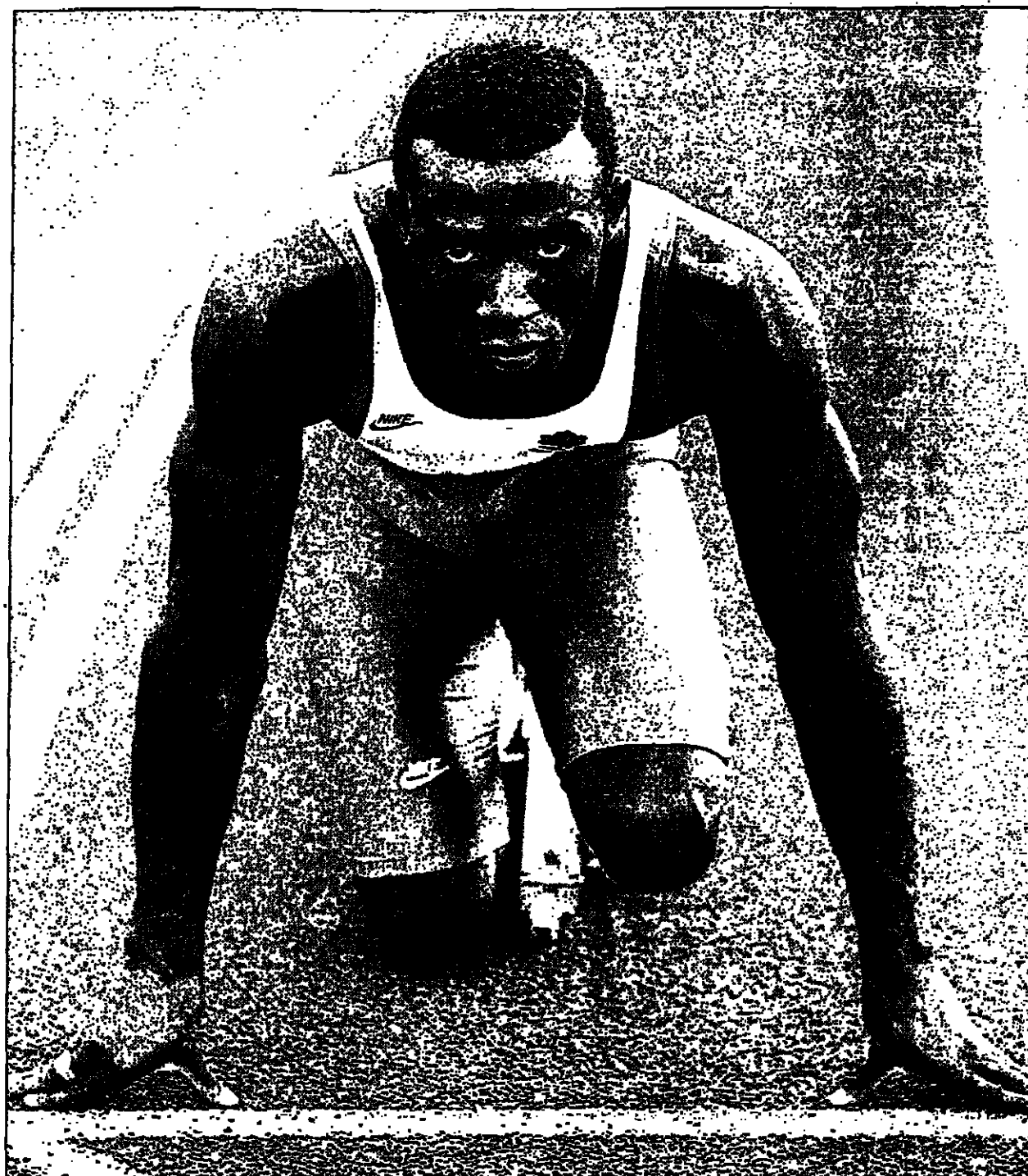
ATHLETICS

greater tactical awareness. Only Noureddine Morceli, of Algeria, is in Elliott's class, though Kenya's propensity for producing Olympic middle distance champions out of thin air, literally and metaphorically, must be noted. Remember Peter Rono, who beat Elliott in Seoul?

On their day, Jackson and Jarrett are anyone's equal and, if British sprinters apply themselves to relay practice, they can challenge the United States and France.

McColgan is the world's fastest 10,000 metres runner this year but, assuming South Africa competes, she will find Elana Meyer a nuisance. Murray, too, might consider her greatest danger to be South African. Zola Pieterse. Backley should start the javelin as favourite. Although he has set the world record twice and lost it, his championship record is exemplary: at the first time of asking he won Commonwealth, European, European Cup and World Cup gold medals. This will be his first Olympics.

It would be a bonus if Linford Christie (100 metres), John Regis (200 metres) or Kriss Akabusi (400 metres hurdles) did better than silver since, respectively, they have Leroy Burrell, Johnson and Danny Harris to contend with. But all should make be somewhere on the podium. Of the three, Regis is the most likely for silver and, with help, Britain should chase home the United States in the 4 x 400 metres relay.



On his marks for gold: Christie is one of Great Britain's medal prospects in Barcelona next summer

Competition for medals grows ever more fierce

MANY of Britain's most memorable performances in the Olympic Games have come in the less publicised sports (John Goodbody writes). However, as the different disciplines become more widely practised in the world, there is increasing competition for medals.

In 1992, stricter qualifying standards of boxing and wrestling will restrict the number of British entries in boxing, only eight places in each weight division will be allocated to Europeans. Britain is also unlikely to qualify in volleyball, handball and basketball and has not entered the Olympic football tournament since failing to qualify for the 1972 Games.

British medals are not expected in tennis, baseball, fencing and even gymnastics. Although Neil Thomas secured a bronze medal in the vault at the 1990 European championships, the remarkable quality across the world may again prevent Britain from ending a run of 64 years without an Olympic medal.

The picture is brighter elsewhere. The return of slalom canoeing to the programme for the first time since 1972 will give both Richard Fox, four times former world champion, and Shaun Pearce, winner this year, the chance to secure Olympic honours. Gareth Marriott is fancied for a medal in the Canadian singles.

Another proven international competitor bound for Barcelona is Richard Phelps in the modern pentathlon. Phelps has a wealth of experience and last month won the World Cup. The British

team's tradition is impressive, including first place in 1976 and third in 1988.

Britain has a distinguished pedigree in shooting. Although Malcolm Cooper, twice Olympic champion, has retired, Alistair Allan, the runner-up in Seoul, is again available in the small-bore rifle three position event.

Two of Britain's three-man archery team, which was third in the men's team event in 1988, will be competing in Barcelona, and the chances of Joanne Edens, fifth in Seoul in the individual competition, should not be discounted.

In badminton, which is on the Olympic programme for the first time, Gillian Clark and Gillian Gowers, who won the Japan Open this year, could be among the doubles favourites, although it is not certain they will be playing together at the Games. Chris Boardman, holder of five national cycling championships, has recovered from the serious stomach operation he underwent last year and should reach the final four of the 4,000 metres individual pursuit.

The British Olympic Association has asked China for permission for Chen Xinhua to represent his adopted country in table tennis. Even if he does, he will do well to reach the last eight. In weightlifting, David Morgan, fourth at the last two Games, has come out of retirement for another attempt in the 82.5-kilo class. Andrew Davies is still improving in the 110-kilo division.

EQUESTRIANISM

Traditions to uphold

THE three-day event team has traditionally been one of Britain's best medal hopes for the Olympics. They won the gold medal in 1968 and 1972 and the silver in 1984 and 1988 (Jenny MacArthur writes).

The team for Barcelona, which will probably include Ian Stark and Virginia Leng, members of the 1984 and 1988 teams and winners of the individual silver and bronze medals respectively in Seoul, is set to continue the tradition.

On recent form, Britain are likely to battle it out with New Zealand, the world champions, for the gold medal. In the individual contest, Stark and Leng, winners at Badminton this year, are all likely leading contenders.

Stark, who has won three European and one world team gold medal since 1984, will probably ride Murphy Himself, whose record over the last two years has been outstanding. He won team and individual silver medals at the world championships in Sweden last year and finished runner-up this year at Badminton, where the course has been regarded as more difficult than for the Olympics.

Leng, the winner of the individual bronze medal in Los Angeles and Seoul, now has two nine-year-olds in Welton Houdini, the runner-up at Saumur this year, and Welton Chit Chat, the winner of Bramham in June, to

reinstate her at the top, should her top horse, Master Craftsman, still be sidelined through injury.

Britain's best hope for a medal in the show jumping lies with John Whitaker, the former European champion. If Mr and Mrs Tom Bradley allow him to take Henderson Milton to Barcelona — something of a moot point at the moment — Whitaker would start as favourite for the individual gold medal.

Even without Milton, Whitaker would be a medal contender with his reserve horse, Henderson Gammon, who has rarely been out of the money on the grand prix circuit. He was runner-up at the Arnhem grand prix in June and gained a double clear round in the Luxembourg Nations Cup earlier this month. The show jumping team, which won the silver medal at Los Angeles in 1984, has a realistic chance of a medal, providing Nick Skelton and Michael Whitaker find horses to match John Whitaker's.



Stark: medal prospect

HOCKEY

Much to be done

IF THE Olympic hockey tournament were to be played now instead of next year, Germany and The Netherlands would be ready (Sydney Friskin writes). Great Britain, men's gold medal winners in 1988, would not, the women having still to qualify for the tournament in Auckland in October.

Fischer, of Germany, and Bovelander, of The Netherlands, are established match-winning short corner specialists, while Britain's men are still struggling to replace Barber, who retired after 1988. They rely on Kerty who, at centre forward, already has his hands full.

Britain, The Netherlands, Germany, Pakistan, Australia and Spain (as host country) have already qualified for the men's events, leaving six places to be filled, one from each of the Pan-American and African Games and four from Auckland.

The pattern in Barcelona should be the same as in Seoul with Britain, Germany, The Netherlands and Australia seizing the semi-final places and the much-improved Pakistanis knocking at the door. Germany have probably the best chance for the gold medal, Australia the silver and Britain the bronze.

Only Spain, Australia and The Netherlands have so far qualified for the women's events, but the remaining five

qualifiers will emerge from Auckland, and Britain should be among them, along with Canada, New Zealand, South Korea and Argentina.

Everything points to Australia, the holders, and South Korea competing for the gold medal, with Britain probably winning the bronze, which just eluded them in Seoul.

England, not Great Britain, qualified for the Champions Trophy tournament in September in Berlin, where as Great Britain they would have met their main Olympic rivals. In 1987 Great Britain's men were allowed to compete for the trophy when it was England who had qualified.

Leading the way

PENNY Way, the world windsurfing champion, leads the British hopes for a clutch of yachting medals (Barry Pickthall writes).

Way, aged 29, from Christchurch, Hampshire, has captured 11 pre-Olympic titles during the past two years, including the women's world championship in South America last October, and has already won selection for the British team in Barcelona.

Stuart Childerley, Britain's fourth-placed Finn representative at the last Games in South Korea, and a former winner of *The Times* Minet Supreme award, feels he has unfinished business to complete in Barcelona.

The former world youth champion opened his single-

hander campaign with fourth place at the Finn European championship last month and now heads the Euro-Olympic rankings.

Britain's medal hopes in the men's 470 class have been heightened by the fierce competition between the former world champions, Nigel Buckley and Peter Newlands, and Paul Brotherton and Andy Hemmings. Hemmings and his crew got the measure of Buckley and Newlands at the British pre-Olympic regatta.

The competition is equally tough among the men's windsurfers, with Barrie Edgington — the third-placed finisher for Britain at the 1991 European championship — being hard pressed by Jonathan Hutchcroft, who now shares his third-place ranking.

Other hopefuls include Glyn Charles and his crew, victors at the Barcelona pre-Olympic regatta last year, Shirley Robertson, from Edinburgh, second in the rankings for the Europe class women's single-handed boats; and Debbie Jarvis and Rosie Tribe, who were third at the recent 470 class European championship.

SWIMMING

Forcing a rethink

A WAVE of fresh challengers is about to follow Adrian Moorhouse, not that he is finished (Craig Lord writes). The European championships in Athens next month hold the key to whether Moorhouse, who has led Britain's hopes of

a gold medal at every big championship for the last seven years, will go on for another year.

Victory in Barcelona would make him the first British swimmer to retain an Olympic title. Age is against him. At 27, Moorhouse is eight years older than Norbert Rozsa, the Hungarian who became world champion in Australia in January, when the average age of the finalists was 22.

In the last year, Moorhouse has been unable to better 1min 01.49sec, the world record he set and equalled twice before Rozsa swam 1:01.45 in January, a time since equalled by Vasilii Ivanov, of the Soviet Union. Rightly, Moorhouse is much favoured for a medal, but to remain so will require proof in Athens of his ability to keep up with the next generation.

Meanwhile, his main British rival, Nick Gillingham, of City of Birmingham, looks stronger. The European champion at 200 metres backstroke was second in Seoul and, after the worst personal year of his career, was third in Australia. With little more settled, he is one of only three likely to challenge the supremacy of Mike Barrowman, the world champion and record-holder from America.

Ian Wilson, of Borough of Sunderland, fourth in the world at 1,500 metres freestyle, and Joanne Deakin, of Gloucester City, fourth at 200 metres backstroke, will challenge for medals, with Karen Pickering and Sharon Page outside chances. All four endure tough training regimes, which went out of fashion at British clubs in the 1980s.

JUDO

Prospects are good

BRITAIN'S judo fighters have their best chance for a first gold medal after the introduction of the women's event (Nicolas Soames writes). The remarkable success sustained by British women since the first world championships in 1980 has seen a total of five world titleholders, led by Karen Briggs (bantamweight), Sharon Rendle (featherweight) and Diane Bell (light-middleweight).

Any one of them could produce the gold medal which eluded such talented men as Neil Adams and David Starbrook, even though they may be past their peak.

Koy Imanu, the British women's manager, has other strong contenders coming through, notably Kate Howey, aged 18, the world junior middleweight champion and



Howey: strong contender

twice European silver medal winner. Expectations are high for at least one gold medal.

The best chance for a medal from the British men's team rests with the bantamweight, Nigel Donohue, aged 21, a 1990 European silver medal winner. He has proved himself consistently against strong competitors. Also hopeful is the featherweight, Ian Freeman, who won a bronze medal in the European championships when he was just 17.

ROWING

Gröbler pays off

STEVE Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent are Britain's top medal contenders (Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent, writes). Redgrave, aged 29, Britain's most successful oarsman, won two Olympic gold medals and one bronze, plus five other golds from world and Commonwealth competitions. Pinsent, aged 20, is Redgrave's third pair partner and has already won two world bronze medals and two Boat Races under Oxford colours.

Although the coxless pair is Britain's top vote, the Olympic rowing squad, reckoned to be the finest in the history of British rowing, includes 18 other athletes with a wealth of senior and junior international experience. Jürgen Gröbler, former East German coach and Britain's new technical adviser, has brought in many new training methods and, two, if not three, medals would seem a probability.

Terrorism threat clouds a city running out of space and time

From GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BARCELONA

BARCELONA today celebrates one year to the Olympics with a festa. The mayor, Pasqual Maragall, will toast the organisers, who are leading the city's lifeline in time for the Games. But as the local Catalan wine flows and dancing begins on Montjuïc Hill, which cradles the Olympic stadium, the festivities are overshadowed by uncertainties and the threat of violence.

"Our city is transformed. We have plush new sports halls and a modern urban look, but we are not ready and will find it hard to cope,"

Miguel Roca, leader of a conservative Catalan party, said.

All the sports facilities, except for the badminton courts, are nearly finished. However, with 400,000 visitors expected, there is a serious and potentially embarrassing shortage of hotel rooms. Out of 12 luxury hotels planned, only six are under construction. Moreover, Barcelona's Olympic organising committee, CooB 92, has already booked 80 per cent of all five, four and three-star hotels for 40,000 members of the Olympic family.

"We cannot find enough space. People will have to

travel to nearby resorts," a CooB 92 spokesman said. The troubles do not end there. International hoteliers complain of a monopoly held by a local chain over building contracts, blocking foreign investment. A row has also broken out between CooB and hotel owners because of rocketing room prices.

Ten cruise liners, for 8,000 company executives, have been chartered by multinational sponsors and may ease the room shortage, but only one ship has its own sewage dispensing system and, according to shipping brokers, the port may well face unpleasant problems of

waste from the other nine. Transport difficulties are feared because the new airport terminal is already straining to cope with regular summer tourist traffic. Several road construction projects are severely behind schedule and unlikely to be completed by next summer.

Trade union leaders claim bad organisation and over-

TICKETS AND ACCOMMODATION

ABOUT 1,000 Britons went to Seoul to watch the 1988 Olympics. There may be 10,000 going to Barcelona. Already, 3,500 have put down deposits for package deals including flights and accommodation. Sportsworld, the British Olympic Association's official agency, originally thought that demand would far exceed its allocation. However, Mike Norris, the chairman and managing director, says: "We have had a continuous battle but we have managed to convince the organisers that, together with the United States and Germany, Britain is the best market."

For athletics, Sportsworld can satisfy 3,000 to 4,000 spectators every day in a stadium holding only 70,000. However, tickets for swimming are at a premium. The only rooms available are in two and one-star hotels. These are expensive compared with the coastal resorts, where Sportsworld is accommodating most of its clients. Sportsworld has Olympic packages of three to 21 nights, from £495 to £2,495.

As the rush is on to complete facilities, which will cost £2.5 billion altogether, Barcelona also faces a disconcerting terrorist threat from a Catalan radical group, *Tierra Lliure* (Free

Country), and the Basque separatist group, ETA. Both have issued threats against the Olympics, and worries were heightened with two recent attacks by ETA which killed 15 people on the outskirts of Barcelona. Police also defused a bomb planted by *Tierra Lliure* in the city centre only two weeks ago.

Documents outlining the ETA intentions to target Barcelona were found on a member arrested in France, and police claim to have identified a unit operating here. Although *Tierra Lliure* announced plans to lay down arms, many of its members were reported last week to have rejected the

effort at conciliation. "We are worried about ETA and Catalan separatists, but also about international terrorism. Security will be on high alert," Gaspar Rosell, spokesman for the security services, said.

Twenty thousand policemen will be mobilised during the Games, and international intelligence services will also be there.

Despite the problems, Catalans are banking on the Games to elevate their role in Europe and to prove to the socialist central government in Madrid that they are not prepared to play second fiddle in Spain's affairs, a long standing grievance.

CRICKET

Lancashire thwarted by patient Asif Din

By PETER BALL

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of three): Lancashire, all first innings runs standing, are 240 runs behind Warwickshire

DOUBTS about Warwickshire's worth as championship leaders have been concentrated on their batting. Such fears were unfounded yesterday, Asif Din and Reeve dominating an acrimonious day with a stand of 180 to put the game virtually out of Lancashire's grasp.

In the process, Asif scored his first century for 63 runs since an unbeaten 131 at Northampton three years ago. Reeve was the dominant partner while they were together, but Asif's was an innings of sheer determination by a player in hitherto appalling form.

Sadly, however, a slow but interesting day's cricket was clouded, if not soured, by the eviction of Wasim Akram from the Lancashire attack after three warnings for short-pitched bowling.

It was a frustrating morning for Wasim, who dropped both Din and Reeve in the early stages of their innings. Wasim was having constant trouble with his run-up, and was not-batted 26 times for overstepping.

Almost as miserable as Wasim was Ian Critchley, aged 19, a slow left-arm bowler from Darwen who was summoned to field in place of Fowler. Instead of fulfilling every club cricketer's dream, Critchley had a devastating day, dropping Asif Din when

he had scored two, as Martin continued to hold sway in the early stages, and missing Reeve when he had made 32. That one would have been a phenomenal catch and the other was unfortunate, as he lost his footing. But that will provide little consolation.

As the no-balls proliferated, and Reeve and Din prospered, Wasim's frustration grew. Finally as the partnership reached 100 in 33 overs, he exploded in a ten-ball over containing at least four short-pitched balls, and he was warned by Roy Palmer.

By then Reeve was in full flow. He had hit 15 fours, most driven splendidly, until Wasim returned at the other end to deny him his first century this season, bowling him off an inside edge.

Asif Din however ground on, reaching his century in 318 hard fought minutes. When he was out to an understandingly tired shot, he had put his team in the driving seat.

There was still drama to come, however, in the scramble for bonus points. Wasim returned to the fray. Munton was greeted with two short balls in four to provoke another warning, this time from Nigel Plews. It went unheeded, and the fifth ball of the over flew wildly over Munton's head. Wasim stalked his sweater and snatched away and Allott finished the over.

Ironically, Lancashire won the struggle for bonus points thanks to their spinners. Irony again, Lloyd, opening in place of Fowler, was hit on the helmet in the first over. But he survived to fight another day.



Young pretenders: Dominic Williamson (North) turns to leg with Tony Fross (Midlands) poised at the Bunsbury festival

S African side in line to tour

By IVO TENNANT

THE first cricket tour that South Africa undertakes following its readmission to the International Cricket Council (ICC) may well be to England by an under-15 schoolboys side next year. Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the newly formed United Cricket Board of South Africa, is having discussions with the African National Congress (ANC) as to whether this will be feasible.

An informal approach has been made to Bacher by the English Schools Cricket Association (ESCA), who are holding their annual Bunsbury Festival at Bromsgrove School and Malvern College this week. The sports minister, Robert Atkins, who played a

part in South Africa's readmission to ICC and presented caps yesterday, is under-standably keen on the idea. The National Cricket Association (NCA) also has a say in which country is invited. John Abrahams, their representative at the festival under the auspices of Bull's Development of Excellence Programme, met Steve Taitwell, of the ANC, at the House of Commons in June to discuss resumption of sporting links.

A sponsor has already been found in EMP, who, together with Whittingdale, are backing this festival. David English, creator of the Bunsbury, is planning to organise the tour, which will be a guide to how successful Bacher's schemes for developing cricket in the townships have been. Bacher

feels that an under-15 side would include, on merit, several non-white cricketers.

For Abrahams, such a tour would be poignant. A Cape coloured, he and his family fled South Africa for England when he was nine and during his career with Lancashire he refused several invitations to return to coach. He would now welcome such a tour.

For the time being, an under-16 side from Barbados arrive in the next few days for their first tour at this level to England. If the standard of cricket in this age-group is not quite what it was — a legacy of Apartheidism — the best of South Africa's cricketers will be given some hard games. The standard at this, the 23rd Esca festival, has been as commendably high as ever.

Abrahams reckons that the boys are better informed about the game than when he was that age, owing to increased media coverage. Taking part, incidentally, is one of the two sons of Christopher Martin-Jenkins, the commentator and writer.

That boys who play cricket are their seniors — but not always their betters — is inevitable. If they start without a third man and slap hands at the fall of a wicket, it is because they have seen this at Test matches. What was sadder to several — among them Atkins and Tom Graveney — was that a number opted to wear helmets and visors. So, too, did one short leg ten yards from the bat. Firms are actually providing head gear to the elite in this age-group.

Rumours hound testy Botham

By JACK BAILEY

WORCESTER (second day of three): Worcestershire have scored 64 for 3 wickets against Kent

IAN Botham's disenchantment with all the words fired by his absence from Worcestershire's team came through strongly at the end of a longish spell of assertion and denial at Worcester yesterday. "Bull and speculation," he called it.

It soon became clear that Botham's reported flight to Alderney, which emanated from a radio broadcast, was untrue. "Ian is in Worcester. This afternoon he is representing the club at Edward Poore's memorial service," Michael Vockins, the Worcestershire secretary, said.

One matter that has not been denied is the possibility of Botham's going to Durham at the end of this season. Vockins put it this way: "Ian has another year of his contract to run. In view of the strength of our younger players, it would be easier to say 'yes' if Ian asked us to release him from his contract. No one has approached us yet."

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, rain prevented more than 25 minutes' play against Kent. Time enough for Curtis to middle a hook off Merrick and be finely caught by Hinks standing by the square-leg umpire.

Apparently in limbo from an England, Worcestershire and Durham viewpoint, Botham himself seemed surprised at suggestions made by Duncan Fearnley, the Worcestershire chairman, that he might play in the county's next match, denied any thought that his absence might be for reasons other than giving a younger player a chance, but fell somewhat short of denying his links with Durham's cause.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, rain prevented more than 25 minutes' play against Kent. Time enough for Curtis to middle a hook off Merrick and be finely caught by Hinks standing by the square-leg umpire.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, rain prevented more than 25 minutes' play against Kent. Time enough for Curtis to middle a hook off Merrick and be finely caught by Hinks standing by the square-leg umpire.

A record lacking in honour

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

HAMPSHIRE set a world record they would gladly do down by collapsing in spectacular fashion from 219 for one to 258 all out against Derbyshire at Chesterfield yesterday.

Their total is the lowest to contain two centuries, beating the 271 made by Lancashire against Northamptonshire at Old Trafford in 1947, when the batsmen involved were Winston Place and Barry Howard.

Chris Smith, who made 114, his sixth hundred of the season, and Kevin James, who scored 101, were the Hampshire partners in a second-wicket stand of 202 in 68 overs. In an effort to force a result today, Derbyshire forfeited their first innings and Hampshire closed at 29 for two.

David Byas, the newly capped Yorkshire left-hander, achieved a career-best score for the second time in eight days by reaching 153 against Nottinghamshire at Worksop. He hit four sixes and 20 fours and shared a convincing partnership of 133 in 30 overs with Phil Carrick (63). But here too the decline was rapid once the major stand was broken.

Jimmy Cook went on to reach 210, the highest score by a Somerset player against Northamptonshire, before the declaration at 324 for two at Northampton, where the home team declared in turn at 137 for four.

Edgbaston exposes frailties

By SIMON WILDE

IT WAS, arguably, 18 years ago at Edgbaston, where the fourth Test match started today, that West Indies discovered the negative tactics which can be exploited from fast bowling.

Then, Rohan Kanhai, their captain, successfully, if controversially, protected a 1-0 lead in the second match of a three-Test series by instructing Boyce, Julien and Holder to bowl their overs slowly and make liberal use of the short-pitched ball. Kanhai also showed such dissent at one umpiring decision that Arthur Fagg initially refused to stand.

West Indian frailty was exposed in two earlier Edgbaston

Tests. On both occasions their batting collapsed once they realised that they could no longer win. In 1963 it was a classic piece of fast bowling by Trueman, who took 11 wickets, the last six in 24 balls, as West Indies were all out for 91.

Six years before that, West Indies reliance on another form of bowling, the spin of Ramadhin and Valentine, was broken once and for all by the famous stand of 411 between May (285 not out) and Cowdrey (154). Ramadhin had earlier taken seven for 49 to give his side a lead of 288, but West Indies finally returned to the crease on the last afternoon,

troubled to 72 for seven and were grateful for a draw.

England have come a long way in their efforts to combat the Caribbean reliance on speed since a tactically disastrous performance at Edgbaston in 1984, the first of ten successive defeats by West Indies. They batted ineptly and, having chosen two spinners, failed to use them to advantage. Today, England must not forget that attack is the best form of defence.

RESULTS (Edgbaston, 1987 to date): England won 1, West Indies won 1, two draws. Records England best: Highest total: 383 (1987); Lowest total: 191 (1984); 1st Innings: 285 not out (P H May, 1987); 1st O G Smith (1987); Best bowling: 7 for 44 (S Trueman (1963); 7 for 40 (S Ramadhin, 1967).

England batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
G A Cook	11	7	2	841	154	56.06	3	9	9
A Smith	11	7	3	719	145	55.30	1	6	7
A J Leach	11	7	3	688	128	52.91	0	5	7
M A Atherton	10	6	1	593	136	42.36	1	2	27
R C Russell	11	7	3	494	111	35.29	1	2	27
G H Hill	11	7	3	458	88	32.73	0	4	8
C Llewellyn	10	6	1	336	73	33.60	0	4	4
D J Gower	11	7	3	319	59	29.90	0	3	4
M R Ramprasad	11	7	3	212	59	19.27	0	3	4
P A J DeFreitas	10	6	1	217	60	26.41	0	2	2
M R Ramprasad	11	7	3	198	59	17.90	0	3	4
A J Lamb	10	6	1	133	22	26.71	0	1	1
D Lawrence	11	7	3	125	41	15.76	0	1	1

Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	100	ct
D V Lawrence	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
P A J DeFreitas	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
A J Leach	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1

West Indies batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
C L Hooper	11	7	3	1018	126	92.36	3	5	13
R B Richardson	10	6	2	873	121	72.75	3	5	13
J A Richardson	10	6	2	827	121	72.75	3	5	13
P V Simmons	10	6	2	701	126	41.23	3	5	13
D L Haynes	10	6	2	629	88	35.50	1	3	7
M D Marshall	7	4	1	712	87	28.26	1	1	1
A L Hodge	10	6	2	629	88	35.50	1	3	7
A L Hodge	10	6	2	378	78	37.80	0	3	10
I B A Marshall	9	5	4	16	6	16.00	0	0	1
C A Wallace	9	5	4	16	6	16.00	0	0	1
B P Patterson	8	2	2	5	5	12.50	0	0	2

Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	100	ct
C L Hooper	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
C L Hooper	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
C L Hooper	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
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C L Hooper	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1
C L Hooper	28.1	4	98	4	34.84	21.4	0	0	1

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Derbyshire v Hants									
Hants	11	7	3	219	154	56.06	3	9	9
Derbyshire	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

Lancs v Warwick									
Warwick	11	7	3	240	154	56.06	3	9	9
Lancs	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

Northants v Somerset									
Northants	11	7	3	219	154	56.06	3	9	9
Somerset	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

Glamorgan v Essex									
Glamorgan	11	7	3	219	154	56.06	3	9	9
Essex	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

Derbyshire v Hants									
Hants	11	7	3	219	154	56.06	3	9	9
Derbyshire	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

Lancs v Warwick									
Warwick	11	7	3	240	154	56.06	3	9	9
Lancs	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

Northants v Somerset									
Northants	11	7	3	219	154	56.06	3	9	9
Somerset	11	7	3	258	128	52.91	0	5	7

CYCLING

Indurain and his men neutralise their Tour rivals

MORZINE (Agencies) — After five days of Italian successes, a French rider, Thierry Claveyrolat, got into the winning act at last in yesterday's eighteenth stage of the Tour de France, but the Spaniard, Miguel Indurain, mastered a long day through the Alpine passes and retained his yellow jersey.

Indurain finished in a group half a minute back which contained all the other favourites, except the defending champion, Greg LeMond, who was dropped on the first of the day's three big climbs, the Col des Aravis, and eventually finished more than seven minutes behind. The American dropped from fifth to eighth overall, with a 14-minute deficit on Indurain.

The Spaniard's lead of 3min 0sec over the second-placed Gianni Bugno seems a safe cushion to see him through today's relatively easy day of climbs to Aix-les-Bains and the three days of racing that remain. He is well protected by his Banesto team.

Any chance of individual riders breaking away on their own in yesterday's 255-kilometre stage, the second longest of the Tour, was limited from the start when the Banesto domestiques, and their Spanish allies, dictated a furious pace at the front. Heavy rain may also have discouraged attacks, all of which suited Indurain perfectly.

Bugno, his closest adversary, said the wet roads made the downhill dangerous in the toughest day of the Tour so far. "I tried to attack several times but the Banesto team were always there," Indurain said. He

complimented his colleagues, four of whom are not Spanish, on what had been a difficult and dangerous day.

Claveyrolat, who won the King of the Mountains title last year, was one of the few to break away, though he was joined by a fellow-countryman, Thierry Bourguignon. In the final climb, it was the RMO rider who prevailed. "I wanted a stage win very badly and I knew this would be my last chance," he said.

LeMond seems destined to finish in his lowest Tour position. On his debut in 1984 he was third. He moved up to second the next year and won the Tour in 1986. After a two-year absence, nursing gunshot and tendon injuries, he returned to win the 1989 and 1990 races.

Yesterday he was on the limit. Dropped on the Col des Aravis, he trailed the leaders by almost five minutes at the top of the Col de la Colonne. He tried to close the gap on the biggest climb of the day to the 1,713-metre Col de la Joux-Plane but without success.

RESULTS: Eighteenth stage (Bourg d'Oisans to Morzine), 255 km. 1, M. Indurain (Spain, Banesto), 6:52.10; 2, G. Bugno (Italy, Team Astor), 6:55.10; 3, T. Claveyrolat (France, RMO), 6:56.10; 4, M. Chatelet (France, Cofidis), 6:57.10; 5, J. L. Planas (France, Cofidis), 6:58.10; 6, G. LeMond (USA, Motorola), 7:01.10; 7, J. L. Planas (France, Cofidis), 7:02.10; 8, J. L. Planas (France, Cofidis), 7:03.10; 9, J. L. Planas (France, Cofidis), 7:04.10; 10, J. L. Planas (France, Cofidis), 7:05.10.

JUDO

Dangerous duo wait for Briggs

FROM NICOLAS SOAMES IN BARCELONA

TENNIS

Graf shrugs off a shoulder injury but may pull out

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

STEFFI Graf, the Wimbledon champion, suffered a recurrence of a shoulder injury yesterday and could be forced to withdraw from Germany's third-round Federation Cup tie in Nottingham.

The No 3 seed's next match, against Italy, has been delayed until tomorrow to give Graf every chance to rest the right shoulder which has been troubling her since before the French Open in May, but the German team doctor rated Graf as "doubtful" for the tie.

The first sign of the trouble came in the second set of Graf's match against Patricia Hy, of Canada. Graf had taken the first set and, as Anke Huber, the German No 2, had already given them an early lead, Germany seemed well on the way to beating the Canadians.

But Graf needed treatment at the end of the seventh game of the set and, at one point, was on the verge of giving up. Klaus Hofmann, the German team captain, had given her the opportunity to pull out, which Graf had characteristically ignored. She lost the second set but recovered sufficiently to take the match 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

"I have had the injury for almost two months now but today it was worse than it had

ever been," Graf said.

Germany's ill fortune could prove to be blessing in disguise, who beat Britain, 2-0, yesterday in the second round. As ever, when the Italians and the British get together in sport, the match is never dull. So it was yesterday, Javer having plenty of chances to give Britain a precious 1-0 lead, but failing to take them when it really mattered.

The Californian-based British player had five match points at 5-4 in the second set, but her serve, which looked a little fragile throughout, let her down and Raffaella Reggi, who does not know the meaning of the word "hopeless", saved her most aggressive tennis for the big moments.

Once Javer had come so close to victory without embracing it there seemed an inevitability about what followed. To her credit, having lost the subsequent tie-break and gone a break down in the deciding set, she fought back bravely to 5-5, levelled again to 6-6 when Reggi was serving for the match, and capitulated only after 2hr 41min, when she lost her serve for the third time.

Serving to take the match, the fiery Italian made no mistake, winning 2-6, 7-6, 9-7. It was a sad end to Javer's effort, which had promised so

much more.

By the time Javer and Reggi had completed their joint, most of the top four seeds had already progressed to the third round.

Conchita Martinez had to save a match point against Nicole Pietrangeli and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario dropped a set to Rachel McQuillan before Spain, the No 1 seed, beat Australia. The United States and Czechoslovakia, seeded two and four respectively, made more serene progress, neither team dropping a set.

The United States, the defending champions, looked particularly impressive against the youngest two Maleva sisters, otherwise known as Bulgaria. Mary Joe Fernandez lost just three games in beating Katerina, not bad considering that she had been detained in hospital on Sunday suffering from heat stroke and dehydration after the final of a tournament in Newport.

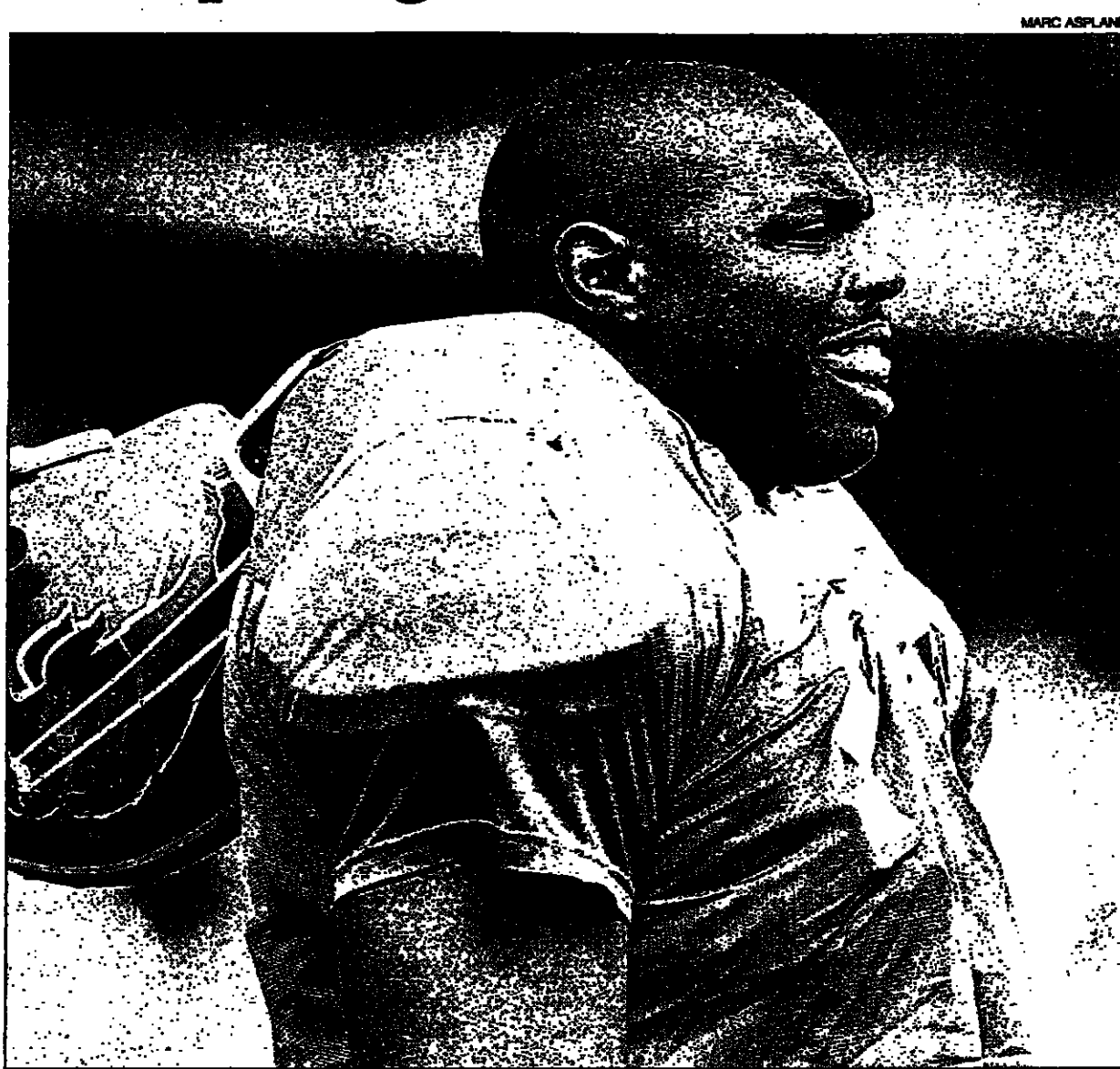
Reid double

Dale Reid, the Scottish golfer, will be seeking a second win at Woburn when he competes in the Westabix Women's British Open from August 1 to 4, having already won the Ford Classic over the Duchess Course in May.

Official named

Atlanta - George M Steinbrenner III, the controversial owner of the New York Yankees baseball team, was yesterday appointed to the committee that will oversee the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Steinbrenner has been an United States Olympic committee vice-president since 1985.

Preparing for confrontation



Time for a breather: Reggie Rogers, of the Buffalo Bills, breaks off from training for the sixth American Bowl, against the Philadelphia Eagles, at Wembley on Sunday (Robert Kirby writes). The teams are ignoring tradition by not scrimmaging with each other during their preparations for the National Football League exhibition.

Mary Levy, the coach of the Bills, who were runners-up to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl last January, decided he wanted his players to work out alone.

"We're disappointed about that," Randall Cunningham, the quarterback of the Eagles, said yesterday before practice at Crystal Palace. Philadelphia took part in the American Bowl two years ago, before which they worked out with the Cleveland Browns. "Scrimmaging with the other team is helpful before this game."

YACHTING

Skipper is still confident

By BARRY PICKTHALL

STUART Childerley, the Olympic yachtsman drafted in to skipper the RAF's Admiral's Cup yacht, Wings of Oracle, expressed quiet confidence yesterday in the boat and the ability of his mixed crew to raise their game in time for the Champagne Mian series starting at Cowes next week.

Childerley said the Oracle regatta at Lynton this week, where the British yacht finished a disappointing fourth, had provided a huge learning curve for the team. "That's what makes me so confident. The crew are now coming together well, we have a new sail inventory for the Admiral's Cup that includes a mainsail quite a bit bigger than our existing sail," he said yesterday.

The crew also weighed 35kg below the maximum allowed, which affected the boat's performance. This was caused by the loss of Ed Danby, who tore an arm muscle in training shortly before the regatta. He was replaced at the last minute by Guy Stanbridge who, though experienced, lacked Danby's weight and strength.

Iain MacDonald Smith, the team director, puts Danby's chances of racing at 60 per cent.

RUGBY UNION

England make clear their determination to prevail

From DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, SYDNEY

THE intensity of England's desire to beat Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium on Saturday in the final of their tour was made clear yesterday. Adopting the habit of the 1991 five nations' championship, the tour party trained in private and will do so again today before unveiling their international XV tomorrow.

"We have one or two fairly minor problems to resolve, with niggling injuries, and I want more time for them to clear up," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said after his team's return from the fortuitously convenient and secure military establishment at Manly's North Head. "It's not in our interests to be specific about the problem areas," he added, but warned that England would have to play better to secure victory than when they won the grand slam.

The main injury remaining for assessment is that to Wally Dooley, the lock forward who has not had a further x-ray on the broken bone in his hand but needs three clear weeks for the bone to knit properly, it would seem. Dooley, who has been replaced by his second cap, Willie Carling, the captain, trained yesterday after feeling a sore Achilles tendon on Monday

and has few doubts about his fitness.

More to the point is the make-up of the England back row. Peter Winterbottom was selected to play against Fiji last weekend but withdrew with a bruised ribs, to watch Gary Rees making a strong claim to the place at open-side flanker. Winterbottom demonstrated his recovery in the best possible way against the Emerging Australians at Gosford on Tuesday and so gave the selectors considerable food for thought.

England have studied the videotape of Australia's 63-6 victory over Wales last Sunday. Although he has cut around his left eye and scars on his shoulder and ribs after being stamped on by Geoff Didier, the Emerging Australian prop, Halliday hopes to be available for Saturday.

However, there has been a suggestion from RFU officers and officials from the Australian Rugby Union, including Joe French, the president and Bob Fordham, the chief executive. Peter Yarrington, the RFU president, said yesterday that he was "not sure" of the damage done to Halliday. "You may take it the player concerned has done himself no favours."

system. I don't think our five nations' form will be good enough against Australia and the boys know that.

"Some of them took part when the Lions beat Australia two years ago but it's more important that many of them have been here and been whacked, in 1988. It's the losses you remember most and we don't want a repeat of them."

Neither the England management nor accompanying Rugby Football Union members are likely to make a formal protest over the raking of Simon Halliday, the Harlequins centre, during the match at Gosford. Although he has cut around his left eye and scars on his shoulder and ribs after being stamped on by Geoff Didier, the Emerging Australian prop, Halliday hopes to be available for Saturday.

However, there has been a suggestion from RFU officers and officials from the Australian Rugby Union, including Joe French, the president and Bob Fordham, the chief executive. Peter Yarrington, the RFU president, said yesterday that he was "not sure" of the damage done to Halliday. "You may take it the player concerned has done himself no favours."

SPORTS FINANCE

Armchair appeal for cash

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE new funding body for British sport was launched yesterday with the active support of 12 national governing bodies but without the wholesale backing of the British Olympic Association and Central Council of Physical Recreation.

Armchair Athletics, which is both a commercial enterprise and long-funding venture for British sport, is aiming to raise £1 million to finance competitors for training and competition. Instead of seeking sponsorship from large companies, members of the public are being asked to become members for at least £10 a year.

Emmanuel Olympidis, the chairman of Armchair Athletics, said: "To reach a target of £1 million we need a subscription in less than one hour in every hundred." Although it is a commercial organisation and a management fee of ten per cent will be deducted on all funds raised after administrative and start up costs, the governing bodies run no financial risk. Brian Armstrong, of the Amateur Rowing Association, said: "This is a wonderful concept."



Elliott: must train

ATHLETICS

Elliott to give AAs a miss

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Elliott gave one of his finest performances of the season in Vigo, Spain, on Tuesday night but will not provide a show of his form at the Panasonic AAAs championships in Birmingham tomorrow and Saturday.

After a 1,500 metres victory in 3min 33.78sec, he has decided that his world championship preparations will benefit most now from training.

With his selection assured, Elliott has no need to run the 1,500 metres at the AAAs - the designated trials - and had entered the 800 and 3,000 metres. But his coach, Kim McDonald, said yesterday that the knee injury which he had suffered after his victory in the Dream Mile in Oslo three weeks ago and from which Elliott had now recovered, had precipitated a change of plan.

"Between Oslo and now, Peter has not done a lot of training," McDonald said. "At this stage, with the world championships five weeks away, it is more important to train. If he does not do it now, there will be no way to make it."

Carl Thackeray, who won Britain's world championship 10,000 metres trial but is still without a qualifying time, was caught in a dilemma yesterday. He had been told by Andy Norman and Frank Dick, two selectors, that they would extend to August 4 his deadline to obtain the time. However, other sources suggested that Norman and Dick could not speak for the selection panel which names its team on Sunday.

Thackeray had abandoned plans to run a 10,000 metres in Bolton tomorrow and look for a time in Europe next week. Last night he was trying to contact Les Jones, the British team manager, to find out whether he should go to Bolton, after all, to be sure of meeting the deadline.

FOOTBALL

Millichip defends Premier League

THE Football Association (FA) argued in the High Court yesterday that its planned Premier League would be good for football and not any serious administrative problems.

There was no reason why the FA should not run a premier division while continuing to supervise the national games as a whole, as did its counterpart organisation in Germany, Sir Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, said in a statement read by the FA counsel, John Dyson QC.

Sir Bert rejected the Football League's assertion that "no referee should become a player". He was answering claims by the League that, by "descending into the arena" and setting up the Premier League, football's governing body ran a serious risk of losing its impartiality and the respect of the clubs and individuals it had to regulate.

The League is asking Mr Justice Rose to quash as unlawful the FA's decision to set up the breakaway league in time for the 1992-93 season.

Sir Bert stressed that one of the main aims of the FA was to place the England team "at the apex of the pyramid of football" and promote its interests above those of league clubs. He said no Premier League fixtures would be played on Saturdays prior to World Cup and European championship matches involving England. The current agreement between the League and the FA provided only that the League would keep two Saturdays each season free of any division fixtures prior to specified international matches. The hearing continues today.

GOLF

Pyman's lead is secured

IAN Pyman, of Sand Moor, the Yorkshire junior county champion, produced another steady and consistent round over the Long Ashton course at Bristol to establish a clear lead at the half way mark in the Corris Trophy (Chris Smart writes).

Joint leader over night after a splendid opening round of 68 Pyman dropped just two shots on the outward nine and one more after the turn for a 74 and a two-round aggregate of 142, level par.

In atrocious weather conditions with heavy rain and driving winds there were some remarkable scores, not least from David Howell, of Broome Manor, who produced a one-under-par 70 to move within two strokes of Pyman.

The Withshire county player was three under at the turn but then dropped three shots only to pick up a birdie at the 18th.

LEADERS: Corris 142: I Pyman (Sand Moor) 144; D Howell (Broome Manor) 145; S Drummond (Shiloh) 146; A Johnson (Haywards) 147; S Broadbent (St Giles) 148; R Walton (Calton Park) 149; A Woodcock (Lodge) 149; S Green (St Giles) 150; A Marshall (Dorchester) 151; P Coppola (North Mead) 152; D Hamilton (East Heris) 153; C Campbell (Newport).

CROQUET

Noble effort falls shy of Aspinall

NIGEL Aspinall, eight times the champion, narrowly survived a close and exciting match against George Noble in the British championship at the Hurlingham Club yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

Robert Fulford, aged 23, the world champion, completed an excellent quadruple peel and Chris Clarke, his doubles partner, confirmed his good form with four successive triple peels.

RESULTS: Single: First round: D Goacher (R) 10-9, 11-9, 12-9, 13-9, 14-9, 15-9, 16-9, 17-9, 18-9, 19-9, 20-9, 21-9, 22-9, 23-9, 24-9, 25-9, 26-9, 27-9, 28-9, 29-9, 30-9, 31-9, 32-9, 33-9, 34-9, 35-9, 36-9, 37-9, 38-9, 39-9, 40-9, 41-9, 42-9, 43-9, 44-9, 45-9, 46-9, 47-9, 48-9, 49-9, 50-9, 51-9, 52-9, 53-9, 54-9, 55-9, 56-9, 57-9, 58-9, 59-9, 60-9, 61-9, 62-9, 63-9, 64-9, 65-9, 66-9, 67-9, 68-9, 69-9, 70-9, 71-9, 72-9, 73-9, 74-9, 75-9, 76-9, 77-9, 78-9, 79-9, 80-9, 81-9, 82-9, 83-9, 84-9, 85-9, 86-9, 87-9, 88-9, 89-9, 90-9, 91-9, 92-9, 93-9, 94-9, 95-9, 96-9, 97-9, 98-9, 99-9, 100-9, 101-9, 102-9, 103-9, 104-9, 105-9, 106-9, 107-9, 108-9, 109-9, 110-9, 111-9, 112-9, 113-9, 114-9, 115-9, 116-9, 117-9, 118-9, 119-9, 120-9, 121-9, 122-9, 123-9, 124-9, 125-9, 126-9, 127-9, 128-9, 129-9, 130-9, 131-9, 132-9, 133-9, 134-9, 135-9, 136-9, 137-9, 138-9, 139-9, 140-9, 141-9, 142-9, 143-9, 144-9, 145-9, 146-9, 147-9, 148-9, 149-9, 150-9, 151-9, 152-9, 153-9, 154-9, 155-9, 156-9, 157-9, 158-9, 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874-9, 875-9, 876-9, 877-9, 878-9, 879-9, 880-9, 881-9, 882-9, 8

England dependent on breakfast-time reports

Gooch hopeful of being fit to lead from front

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE deflating prospect of England duplicating their rapid decline and fall in the Caribbean last year may be dictated by events around the breakfast table in their Birmingham hotel this morning.

It will be there, doubtless in front of an anxious team management, that the captain and his most important batsman will report on their fitness for the critical fourth Cornhill Test match against West Indies, which starts at Edgbaston today.

If Graham Gooch and Robin Smith, the only two home top-order batsmen to score even a half-century in this series, fail to make the team, it is barely conceivable that England will repel a touring side which has begun its chillingly familiar roll. It increasingly takes these West Indians until mid-series to lose their vulnerability, but once they do, they need no further encouragement.

Early last year, England went one up in Jamaica and held their lead until the final two Tests, in which they were valiant losers in Barbados before being blown away in Antigua. The parallels are unavoidable, but this time West Indies have equalised with two Tests to play. The clever money now says they will win 3-1 and, if England were to lose Gooch, that would become an odds-on shot.

Mercifully, this at least now seems unlikely. Gooch retired to bed on Tuesday with a sore throat, a receding voice and a temperature of 101. By yesterday, he was well enough to seek a gentle warm-up at the ground, but cautious enough

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (Essex, captain), M A Alberton (Leicestershire), G A Hick (Northamptonshire), R A Smith (Lancashire), W R Ramprakash (Middlesex), A J Lamb (Northamptonshire), H Morris (Gloucestershire), R C Russell (Gloucestershire), C G Lewis (Leicestershire), D R Briggs (Essex), P A Dooling (Leicestershire), D V Lawrence (Gloucestershire), R K Sangwar (Worcestershire).
WEST INDIES (from): I V A Richards (Leeward Islands, captain), D L Haynes (Barbados), P V Simmons (Trinidad and Tobago), R B Richardson (Leeward Islands), C L Hooper (Guyana), A L Logie (Trinidad and Tobago), P A De Silva (Leeward Islands), M D Marshall (Barbados), G E L Anderson (Leeward Islands), C A Walcott (Jamaica), B P Patterson (Jamaica), I B A Allen (Windward Islands), D Williams (Trinidad and Tobago).
Umpires: D R Shepherd and B Doolton.
Hours of play: 11.00 start (90 overs minimum). Lunch 1.00, Tea 3.40.
Television: BBC2 10.50 to 1.05, 1.35 to 3.00 (with tennis). BBC1 3.00 to 4.00, BBC2 from 4.00 (with tennis). Sky Sports 8.00 to 10.00, midnight to 2.00 (payphone).

to avoid the dressing-room for fear of passing his throat infection around the team.

Gooch, who was still taking antibiotics, said: "I feel better than I did, and if I am even as well as this tomorrow, I will be OK to play. I have kept away from the other lads up to now but I will be meeting up and talking with them at the team dinner tonight. It is important that I get myself right, but equally important that we do the right thing about Robin."

Smith had a 40-minute net at a damp Edgbaston yesterday, but faced nothing quicker than a gentle medium pace. He reported no instant discomfort, but a decision will not be taken until this morning.

With an average of 93.66 in this series and the automatic respect of the West Indian bowlers, Smith is critical to England. His determination to play should not be permitted to get the better of him, however, for his finger injury has now become persistent enough to indicate a risk of

permanent damage if he should take yet another blow on it.

Gooch is as alert to this as he is aware of Smith's commitment. "His finger will have to be very bad for him not to play, but he has to prove to himself that he can bat through a five-day game. He will have to be honest with me."

The likelihood must be that Smith will withdraw, although whether the eleventh-hour nature of the verdict will help or hinder his replacement is debatable. Hugh Morris is uncomplainingly accustomed to his standby role and has spent a lot of hours in an England dressing-room without yet taking the field. It could arguably be to his psychological advantage if he finally earns his cap at an hour's notice this morning, but he has not exactly been afforded the mental preparation the England committee believes ideal.

In Smith's absence, Morris would open with Gooch, Atherton moving down to his Lancashire position at No. 3. Lamb will presumably remain at No. 4, this time in the plain knowledge that he has to make a score to prolong his Test career, followed by Hick and Ramprakash.

For both of the last named this is a particularly significant game. Hick has reached double figures only once in five Test innings and needs to translate the confidence of recent county runs into more positive footwork and shot selection. Ramprakash has had less difficulty than anyone in occupying the crease against the West Indian attack but is now at a stage when something more assertive would be welcome.

England's final selection does not only revolve around fitness. A bowler must be omitted and only two of the chosen five, Pringle and DeFreitas, are certain to play. Illingworth is the likeliest to stand down, partly because Hick can offer occasional off-breaks but also because his debut performance can have filled nobody with confidence that he is the man to win a game on a turning pitch.

As Edgbaston has favoured Warwickshire's array of seamers all summer, this makes increased sense, but there is still a chance that Lawrence's speed will be sacrificed in search of a more controlled quartet and a shorter tail to the batting. Lewis is the least likely of the three to be omitted and it must be hoped that, this time, he has no cause to take the decision out of the selectors' hands.

West Indies expect to pick from their full strength despite minor knee injuries being carried by Marshall and Dujon.

The pressure to justify Vivian Richards' words yesterday that "this is a good England side" will be harsh upon Gooch and his men this morning. It will be immeasurably harsher if two long faces appear at the breakfast table.



Catching the eye: Robin Smith makes light of his injured fingers as he goes for a high catch during England's practice session at Edgbaston yesterday

Cricket salutes 'all-time great'

FREDDIE Brown, the former Northamptonshire and England captain and a prominent cricket administrator, died yesterday at the age of 80 after a long illness.

Keith Andrew, the former England wicketkeeper and now chief executive of the National Cricket Association (NCA), of which Brown was a long-time chairman, described him as "one of the all-time great men of cricket."

Dennis Brookes, who took over the Northamptonshire captaincy from Brown, said: "Freddie was a fine captain as a tactician and a great leader on the field."

Brown, born in Peru, led England to their first post-war Test victory against Australia, at Melbourne on the 1950-1 tour, and was largely responsible for the revival in Northamptonshire's fortunes after

taking over the captaincy in 1949.

A hard-hitting batsman and effective leg spinner, Brown played for Cambridge University and Surrey and made the first of his 22 Test appearances as an underdog against New Zealand in 1931.

He retained the England captaincy in 1951 against the South Africans and became a Test selector.

Two years later, in his last season with Northamptonshire, he was persuaded by his fellow selectors to play again for his country in the Lord's Test before returning to his career-best score.

The loss of 103.4 overs yesterday takes the total already lost in the match to over 170. If it is possible to resume today, the likelihood is that Glamorgan will embark on a fourth-innings run chase.

Downfall is a blow for Essex

ESSEX's championship challenge received a further setback yesterday when rain restricted play to only 6.2 overs in their match with Glamorgan at Cardiff (Simon Wilde writes).

The skies opened after 20 minutes of the morning session by when Essex had taken their score to 133 without loss. The rainfall was so heavy that the umpires abandoned play before 3.0 o'clock.

Essex had added 20 runs, 12 of them to Stephenson, who completed his half-century in 172 minutes. At 77 not out, Seymour is only 13 short of a career-best score.

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Nebiolo faces failure with South Africa

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AS SOUTH African athletes were demanding yesterday to know whether they would be competing in the world championships in Tokyo next month, there were strong indications that they would not. A meeting to decide has been fixed to take place in Pretoria on Saturday with the pro-Tokyo lobby now appearing to be in the irreversible minority.

Ironically, the athletes' hopes all but disappeared on the day when Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Federation president, urged that the new unified governing body, the South African Amateur Athletic Association, should accept the invitation to compete which it had been sent. "If they want to continue to be isolated it's up to them," Nebiolo said. "What we believe the impact will be more important than six months political discussions." This was typical of Nebiolo's pressure tactics.

However, Gert Le Roux, the director of the South African Amateur Athletic Union, whose members are strongly in favour of participation in Tokyo, was pessimistic. The other two bodies represented on the association, the SAA Congress and the SAA Board, were almost certain, he believed, to out-vote his body.

Board support is a lost cause and Le Roux said: "The Union and Congress must come to some sort of agreement. The Congress have indicated they are not interested but, at the moment, negotiations are still

on. If they break away it will be a sad day. We will have to consider the other option: to go it alone."

Le Roux said that Union officials still hope to win over the Congress because "a two thirds majority will satisfy the IAAF." But, in a key move, Congress members have warned Henry Cloete, their president, who had told the IAAF he was in favour of Tokyo, to backtrack or be ousted.

The Soviet Union, which won both the men's and women's European Cup competitions in Frankfurt three weeks ago, could have both trophies taken away.

Germany were promoted to women's champions yesterday when Yelena Rodina, the Soviet high jumper, was announced as having failed a drugs test at the meeting. The Soviet men may suffer the same fate if Britain proceed with a protest over the reinstatement of the champions' relay team which had been disqualified for an athlete running out of lane.

Only four points separated the Soviet and German women. Rodina, who won the competition, was found to have traces of the stimulant, mesocarb, and the steroid, nandrolone, in both her A and B samples. Her eight points were forfeited. Britain remain third.

The Bulgarian javelin thrower, Emil Tsvetkov, also tested positive for mesocarb and had his four points for finishing fifth withdrawn.

Dramatic drop in football arrests

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE NUMBER of arrests and ejections at Football League matches fell dramatically last season, indicating that hooliganism is being better controlled because of the work by the police and the clubs.

The figures, issued by the Home Office in a parliamentary written answer, show that arrests fell by 31 per cent from 5,945 in 1989-90 to 4,119 last season, while ejections dropped by 27 per cent from 6,973 to 5,070. At the same time Football League attendances rose from 19,466,826 to 19,550,000 (not including the play-offs last season). Arrests in 1988-9 and 1987-8 topped 6,000.

Incidents in stadiums have become increasingly rare, partly because potential hooligans know that they can be easily identified through cameras and the films used as

evidence in court cases. However, last season also passed without a serious incident outside grounds because the police were quickly able to suppress any trouble. A spokesman for the Football League said: "These figures are most encouraging. Clearly the improvement over the past few years has been maintained but it's something the clubs will continue to work at. It demonstrates the value of close co-operation between police and the clubs and the success of the community schemes which have forged bonds between the clubs and the public."

The police have also become increasingly expert at identifying potential trouble-makers. Last season was the first in which the National Football Intelligence Unit, which acts as a clearing house for information, was in action for the whole season.

	DIV ONE	DIV TWO	DIV THREE	DIV FOUR	TOTAL
ATTENDANCE					
89-90	8,805,008	6,278,173	2,521,487	1,821,714	19,426,382
90-91	7,878,132	6,642,861	2,785,861	1,950,086	19,256,940
Increase/Decrease	-9%	-8%	-10%	-12%	-2%
ARRESTS					
89-90	1,747	1,710	411	251	4,119
90-91	1,267	2,203	1,151	784	5,345
Increase/Decrease	-27%	29%	-75%	-68%	-31%
EJECTIONS					
89-90	2,822	1,713	296	239	5,070
90-91	3,318	2,707	574	374	6,973
Increase/Decrease	18%	57%	93%	56%	37%

Waldron treated after suffering chest pains

By OWEN JENKINS

RON Waldron, the manager of Wales, was taken to Morriston Hospital, Swansea, yesterday morning, suffering from chest pains, less than 24 hours after returning from his team's tour of Australia.

Waldron, aged 57, was advised to receive hospital treatment and tests by Malcolm Downes, the Welsh Rugby Union's (WRU) doctor, who travelled with the party.

Waldron, who had bronchial problems in Australia, was said to be comfortable at the hospital and could be kept in for up to five days. The Welsh World Cup squad training session planned to take place in Cardiff on Sunday has been cancelled as a result.

Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said: "Ron was admitted to hospital with a bronchial complaint. He also had chest pains. Because of his medical problems I have written to all the players to cancel Sunday's squad session. I will be writing to them again to reconvene the World Cup squad when we know what is going on. It all depends on Ron's fitness and Malcolm

Downes will decide when he is fit enough to continue.

"I understand that the first batch of tests takes 24 hours and the second batch could take up to four or five days. We must now work things out. We must submit and nominate a large squad for the World Cup by August 1 then trim that down to 26 by the second week in September."

Quite apart from the WRU's concern for Waldron's health, the situation is awkward. The tour was to put it mildly, disappointing, culminating in defeats of 71-8 by New South Wales and 63-6 by Australia. Waldron and his squad have been under a great deal of pressure, during the tour and on their return, with critics calling for Waldron's resignation.

However, the enforced cancellation of the session on Sunday does remove the one potential source for embarrassment. There had been suggestions that a number of leading players intended to boycott it.

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Racing found unfit to run Tote

By RICHARD EVANS

RACING ought to run the Tote but, sadly, it is unfit to do so. That is the damning conclusion of the Commons home affairs select committee report, published yesterday, into the betting organisation chaired by Lord Wyatt of Woodford.

The MPs were unable to give the Tote a clean bill of health, but they were even more critical of the ability of the racing industry and its leadership - or lack of it - to take charge. How right they are.

In recent weeks, racing has witnessed a power battle between the Jockey Club, racing's so-called rulers, and the Horserace Betting Levy Board, the sport's paymasters. The issue at stake - fixtures and funding - is scarcely important.

The unedifying spectacle served only to confirm that the various factions appear more interested in protecting their individual power-bases and reputations than trying to combine to improve racing's desperate lot.

Never mind the breeders and trainers who will go out of

business during the next 12 months: forget stable staff who will continue to earn a pitiful wage; and to hell with owners who will continue to leave the sport because of inadequate prize-money. Racing's leaders would rather behave like feudal chieftains, crowing over victories, perceived or real, scored against the opposition within. No wonder the big bookmakers barely bother to conceal their contempt for racing's rulers.

It should be no surprise either that MPs decided "we do not see any suitable body inside racing at the moment" to run the Tote. Following the latest row, Levy Board officials loathe their Jockey Club counterparts and vice versa.

It need not be thus. But pride will have to be swallowed, egos will have to be deflated and personal empires relinquished.

The proposal put forward by the select committee is not radical, although it may be considered to be so by the reactionaries.

Quite simply, a racing body must be created to run the

sport; it needs to be democratically accountable and responsible to, and representative of, the groups which work in the industry. But how can it come about?

Despite valiant attempts to improve its ways, the Jockey Club has failed where it matters. Yet it is the Jockey Club which must initiate the move towards change.

Lord Harrington is, by common consent, one of the more


enlightened senior stewards in recent years. He must start the process towards creating a single racing body - and he must be seen to be doing so. Simply "noting" select committee recommendations will not do. Nor is it sufficient to set up study groups within the Horserace Advisory Council which will grind on endlessly.

Despite their propensity for raising each other's hackles, racing's leaders are not without considerable talent and intellect. Lord Harrington must bring together Sir John Sparrow, Stanley Jackson, Luca Cumanini and others to plot the way forward.

The incentive of running the Tote should be reward enough to get the process under way. The scrutiny of racing by Westminster has highlighted shortcomings in its leadership, particularly within the Jockey Club. Until those shortcomings are rectified, the sport has no chance of prospering. The government insists the sport must sort out its own problems. It should start today.



Sparrow: forward-thinking



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